

PLO warns Hamas over killings

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Sunday not to carry out more "executions" in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. A Fatah spokesman here, Said Ayad, told AFP the PLO had warned Hamas it would "lose the support of the population and wreck relations with us if it carries on like this." Mr. Ayad was referring to the killings of three men and one woman Friday and Saturday in the Gaza Strip, two of whom belonged to Fatah. Izzeddin Al Kassam, the armed wing of Hamas later claimed three of the killings. Five hundred PLO supporters protested over the killings in Gaza Sunday. A member of the PLO's bureau in Gaza, Talaat Abu Sittan, said Hamas "must tell us of its suspicions before deciding to execute a Palestinian." "It is not up to Hamas to decide the fate of suspects," Mr. Sittan added. Twelve people have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace accord in Washington Sept. 13, most of them by Hamas, which opposes the peace deal.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»



Bashir to form new government

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's cabinet resigned Sunday to allow new President Omar Hassan Al Bashir to choose a new government, Sudan radio said. The ministers resigned a day after the military junta in power since a 1989 coup dissolved itself and appointed Lieutenant-General Bashir, the country's military ruler, as Sudan's president. The radio said Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddu proposed the resignations "to enable the president...to select a new cabinet in accordance with the requirements of the new constitutional developments which provide for (Bashir) to assume the presidency of the republic." Gen. Bashir has asked the ministers to remain in office until he appoints a new cabinet, said the radio. Diplomats have been expecting the moves for some months as Gen. Bashir tries to shake off vestiges of military rule and promote a civilian image. The general took power in June 1989 when he overthrew a democratically-elected government in a bloodshed coup. The 15-man Revolutionary Command Council is backed by the powerful National Islamic Front.

Volume 17 Number 5438

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1993, JUMADA ALAWAL 2, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Talal Al Hassan meets Yemeni minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Sunday reviewed with Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandwah the latest developments in the region and exchanged views on issues of common interest. Mr. Bassandwah is currently on a private visit to Jordan.

Bread prices to go up in 1994

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will reduce subsidy on a number of basic food stuffs in 1994, minister of Supply Raddi Ibrahim said. The Al Ra'i Arabic Daily quoted Mr. Ibrahim that reduction of subsidies would include bread whose price will rise by five to 10 fils per kilogramme. The current price of bread is 85 fils per kilo. Also to be affected will be animal feed whose prices will be slightly raised to the current black market prices, the minister said. The other subsidised commodities will not be affected, but the government will conduct a study on a new mechanism for gradual reduction of subsidies on the one hand and ensuring that needy groups only benefit from subsidies on the other, he said.

U.N. protests to Israel over shelling

TYRE (AFP) — The United Nations protested to Israel Sunday after three Lebanese U.N. troops were injured, one of them seriously in mortar fire from Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon. "We sent a strong protest to Israel," said Norwegian General Tord Furuhede, commander of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), who on Sunday visited the U.N. base at Majdel Zun, to the west of the occupied zone, where the three troops were injured by a mortar shell Saturday (see page 2). Gen. Furuhede said the Israeli army was "the occupying force and it is responsible."

Jailed ex-FIS chief said to be ill

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian newspaper said on Sunday jailed fundamentalist Abbasi Madani, whose now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) nearly captured power in parliament, was seriously ill in hospital. Al Watan, usually well-informed on security issues, said: "He has been the victim of a heart attack which needed urgent hospital care." Mr. Madani, 62, was arrested in June 1991. A year later he was imprisoned for 12 years by a military court along with his deputy Ali Belhadj. The two were convicted of attacking state security, undermining the national economy and distributing tracts.

Iran says two 'rebels' captured

NICOSIA (AFP) — Security forces have arrested two members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, Iran's main armed opposition group, after they entered the country illicitly from Iraq, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday. The group immediately denied the claim in a statement faxed to Cyprus.

Huge blast near Kashmir shrine

SRINAGAR (AFP) — A massive blast was reported late Sunday near an Islamic shrine, where up to 100 militants have barricaded themselves against a possible storming by Indian soldiers. Residents reporting the explosion near or from the Hazratbal shrine by telephone said they heard the blast around 11:45 p.m. (1815 GMT). "It sounded like a rocket taking off," said schoolteacher Sumiya Begum from a residential district adjoining Hazratbal shrine located on the outskirts of this Kashmir state summer capital. Some 10,000 Indian army soldiers surrounded the shrine (see page 8).

Settlers must quit Gaza Strip-Shaath

Israeli officials say thousands of Palestinians could be freed soon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — All Israeli settlers must leave the Gaza Strip within two years, Nabil Shaath, head of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation to autonomy talks with Israel, said in comments published in a newspaper here Sunday.

"The settlers are not welcome (in Gaza) and the Israelis know that," said Dr. Shaath, who co-chairs talks on the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, taking place in the Egyptian resort of Tabaa. "They must leave. We will have to accept them now for a period of two years, but then they must go," he told the English-language Jerusalem Post.

Ultra-religious Israelis quietly moved into a new settlement in the occupied West Bank Sunday that is expected to house 1,000 families by spring. Thirty families moved into Kiryat Sefer last week and 100 more are expected by the end of the week, said settler spokesman Shai Bazak.

One of the settlement's leaders, Yossi Shvenger, told Israel Radio that the settlement was for ultra-orthodox and semi-religious settlers.

Mr. Shvenger said he expected 1,100 families in the settlement, located 35 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem towards Tel Aviv.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government pledged to halt settlement construction in the occupied territories and housing ministry spokesman Amit Dobkin stressed that Kiryat Sefer was already in its final stages when Mr. Rabin took office.

The United States announced earlier this month that it was slashing Israel's \$2 billion loan guarantees for this year by over \$400 million due to unauthorised investment in settlements.

"The government is not putting it up, not initiating new settlements... it did not speed up construction," Mr. Dobkin said.

Mr. Bazak, however, said the move into the settlement, that lies just east of the green line was political.

"This is a very political act that in these days instead of leaving, people are continuing to expand (the settlements) as always," Mr. Bazak said.

There are about 120,000 Jewish settlers living among the nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under the PLO-Israeli autonomy plan, the settlements will not change in the initial two-year phase but their future is open to discussion for the permanent status of the occupied territories to be negotiated by 1998.

There are some 4,000 Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip, and their representatives have vowed they will stay on despite the autonomy deal.

Israel has promised to keep troops in the area to protect settler colonies.

"We want a settlement accord on the Egyptian-Israeli model," Dr. Shaath told the Jerusalem Post, in a reference to the peace deal signed in 1979 between the two countries which led eventually to a total withdrawal by Israel from the Sinai peninsula.

"The Israelis evacuated their settlements in the Sinai as part of the peace agreement, but Israelis still come as tourists," he said.

Dr. Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Israel should declare a general amnesty freeing 12,000 Palestinian prisoners.

"But we could release a number of prisoners immediately and the rest once we take over control of Gaza and Jericho and will be in charge of security," he added.

Dr. Shaath's committee is in charge of negotiating the prisoner issue with the Israelis. Mr. Rabin said Sunday that Israel would eventually release large numbers of prisoners held in Israeli prisons, fulfilling one of the PLO's conditions for peace.

"We certainly will come to the freeing of prisoners," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio, confirming his intention to release the prisoners for the first time. "Not just one here and there, but big numbers."

He added that the prisoners would be freed in the context of the negotiations stemming from the PLO-Israeli agreement.

Mr. Rabin did not give a number, but reports have said that only 2,000 prisoners would remain in Israeli prisons.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said earlier that the agreement had negated the reason for keeping many of the 11,000 prisoners.

"I think the large majority (of prisoners) will be released since circumstances have changed, the reasons for their detention and arrest have vanished or changed. Our position also needs a change," Mr. Peres said to army radio.

Rabin says key to peace is in separate agreements

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that talks with Syria could only make progress in direct meeting such as those that led to Israel's accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The formula laid out in Madrid two years ago, where "at the same time all delegations come to one place for a limited time, has to date not brought one Arab-Israeli agreement," he said on returning from a week-long trip to the Far East.

"We (have) the intention of reaching comprehensive peace, but this means bilateral peace, but this means bilateral peace treaties with all the Arab partners... any attempt to condition one agreement on the others is a recipe for failure."

His statements appeared aimed at calming Syrian fears that Israel has sidelined talks over the future of the Golan Heights while it concentrates on implementing the accord granting Palestinians self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said in Cairo Saturday there was no longer a need to coordinate with other Arab parties for a joint position in light of the PLO's separate agreement with Israel.

But he said Syria would not attend the next round of U.S.-sponsored talks unless Israel showed more flexibility.

"We are not going to the next round of sterile, irrelevant talks in Washington," he said. "We will not go to talks just for the sake of talks. But if there is any change from the Israeli side, then Syria is ready to

continue negotiations in any future round."

The next round of peace talks has been delayed because of the Syrian threat to stay away, an Israeli official said.

"We have received an announcement from the Americans that there will not be peace talks in Washington next week. They will apparently be postponed until the end of November," said foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu.

An Israeli official, who asked not to be identified, said he believed the United States decided on the delay because of Syria's threat to boycott unless Israel was willing to make progress.

Israeli-Syrian talks have been deadlocked for over a year. Syria insists on full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but Israel wants a commitment to full diplomatic relations first.

Israeli officials fear strong internal opposition to any deal to return the strategic plateau. At the same time, there is concern that is frustrated, Syria might try to sabotage the Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Dr. Osama Al Baz, a top aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said on Israel Television Sunday night that Syria was ready to meet Israel's demand for a full peace and that an accord could be signed by early next spring.

But he urged Mr. Rabin not to delay finalising an agreement with Syria so that the Israeli public could catch its breath and absorb the dramatic changes that have already taken place with the Palestinians.

"It would be a mistake to say

that you cannot move on both tracks at the same time or that you have to digest the agreement with Palestinians before you move with the Syrians," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview published in Qatar on Sunday that Israel was ready to sign a peace treaty with Syria but Damascus was dragging its feet.

Mr. Peres was speaking to the Qatari newspaper Al Sharq in the first interview a Gulf paper has ever had with an Israeli official. Al Sharq said its correspondent interviewed Mr. Peres in Jerusalem.

"We are ready to sign with Syria... but the Syrians are not ready for this signature. They talk more than they act," Mr. Peres said.

On Saturday Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani was quoted as saying he met Mr. Peres earlier this month to discuss the Middle East (see page 2).

Mr. Peres told Al Sharq that comprehensive peace was vital for the Middle East. "I think it is impossible to solve problems separately, they should be solved on a regional basis through a regional strategy."

"The Middle East imports food products worth \$32 billion a year and imports weapons at about the same cost... if we reach a political agreement it would be possible to save some of expenses and instead of importing food and weapons the Middle East would make peace and produce its food products," he said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Sunday Syria was "surprised and perhaps a little insulted" by the Israeli-PLO pact.



FLIGHT IN PANIC: Haitians clamour to board a bus to take them out of the Haitian capital Sunday (see page 10). Many Haitians are leaving Port-au-Prince to escape expected violence following the shooting of the Haitian justice minister and the impending United Nations embargo (AFP photo)

Ross due here tomorrow ahead of mid-November Christopher trip

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Denis Ross, the Middle East coordinator of the administration of President Bill Clinton, is expected to arrive here Tuesday for talks with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East peace process, a senior official said Sunday.

The confirmation of Mr. Ross' visit came amid reports that Washington was delaying the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks until the end of November in what was interpreted as an indication that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was planning a visit to the Middle East in the middle of next month.

Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. who arrived home Saturday ahead of Mr. Ross' visit, said the Kingdom would be taking up "a variety of issues related to the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-American relations" with the American official.

Mr. Ross, who will be accompanied by other members of the so-called Middle East peace team of the Clinton administration, is visiting the region to follow up on the recent progress made in some tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the apparent deadlock in others.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other senior officials are expected to meet with Mr. Ross.

Dr. Tarawneh told the Jordan Times that as the co-sponsors of the peace process, the U.S. has major concerns to ensure the continuity and fruition of the effort and to follow up on the recent developments following the Sept. 13 signing of an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles and the endorsement of a Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiation on Sept. 14.

While the PLO-Israeli accord cleared the way for Jordan to sign the agenda for peace talks with the Jewish state, little progress has been visible on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations with Israel.

The next round of talks, the 13th since the peace process began in Madrid in September 1991, was scheduled for an unspecified date towards the end of this month.

But a report from Jerusalem said that the Israeli government had been notified by the U.S. that the next round of talks was delayed until the end of November.

"We have received an announcement from the Americans that there will not be peace talks in Washington next week," foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Reuter also quoted an unidentified Israeli official as saying that he believed that the U.S. was delaying the talks because Syria was threatening to boycott the talks unless Israel was willing to make progress.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said in Cairo Saturday that the visits of Mr. Ross and Mr. Christopher would determine the course of the peace process and said unless Israel showed willingness to make progress in the Syrian track of negotiations Damascus would stay away from the next round of talks.

Dr. Tarawneh said Jordan had not received any formal notification of the delay, but said: "If the report (of the delay) is true then it is a confirmation of a possible visit to the Middle East by Secretary of State Christopher in mid-November."

The ambassador pointed out that a Christopher visit would need advance preparations, and then the Arab parties involved in the peace process would have to hold a coordination meeting, with the net result that the next round of talks would move to be delayed.

On the bilateral dimensions of Mr. Ross' visit this week, Dr. Tarawneh said the U.S. envoy's talks here would be an opportunity to follow up on the

(Continued on page 5)

Peres sees tripartite accord as inevitable

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday a three-way peace between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians was inevitable, and asserted that Israel was close to making peace with Jordan.

"You only have to look at a map to realise there is no alternative to an agreement between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians," he said in an interview on state-run television.

"We are not far from reaching a complete (peace) agreement with Jordan," he said.

Israel and Jordan signed an agenda for peace negotiations on September 14, the day after the Jewish state and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a historic peace agreement.

Beilin's 'advice'

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Sunday that PLO Chairman Arafat should avoid talk of a "Palestinian State," Israel Radio reported.

"The idea of a Palestinian state is regarded as a threat by many Israelis. So it would be better to talk of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation," Mr. Beilin said, referring to the final status of the occupied territories, which will follow five years of autonomy.

Mr. Beilin, who was speaking at a meeting near Tel Aviv on the final status of the territories, said it would be "better to talk about practical matters, rather than dreams."

The final status still has to be negotiated. Mr. Beilin met Mr. Arafat in Tunis last week to discuss the fate of Palestinian refugees.

Speaking at the same meeting Sunday, Ziyad Abu Ziyad, adviser to the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks in Washington, rejected Mr. Beilin's comments.

"A confederation is a framework linking states, and can only be envisaged after the establishment of a Palestinian state," Mr. Abu Ziyad said.

U.N. forces suspend hunt for Aideed

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United Nations has given up efforts to capture Mohammed Farrah Aideed, although the Somali warlord may yet be held accountable for attacks on U.N. peacekeepers, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said Sunday.

"We have stopped the search process against General Aideed at this time," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Ms. Albright, who is America's representative at the United Nations, said "we are pressing the political track very hard" in an effort to resolve the crisis in Somalia and added that she was "feeling pretty good" about the progress.

But she added, "we cannot afford to have those that attack peacekeeping missions not ultimately be held accountable."

After Gen. Aideed's forces last June ambushed and killed 24 Pakistani peacekeepers, the U.N. forces in the Somali capital of Mogadishu gave top priority to capturing Gen. Aideed and bringing him to

justice. In recent months U.S. troops often spearheaded the search and, in turn, became the most prominent target of Somali attacks.

Violence in the capital has since escalated, culminating in an Oct. 3 street battle — part of a search and capture mission — that left up to 18 Americans dead and brought about a quick shift in U.S. policy.

President Bill Clinton promised to "depersonalise" the conflict in Mogadishu, saying he would work for a political settlement while pledging that all U.S. troops would be out of Somalia by March 31.

Nevertheless, the United Nations' special envoy to Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, said last week that the U.N. effort to capture Gen. Aideed continued.

Asked about her recent statement that failure to take action against Gen. Aideed would be seen as appeasement towards the clan leader, Ms. Albright responded: "What we're doing is trying a different method. What I think we all

have to learn in this period is flexibility. There are different ways of doing things, and we are trying different tools."

Ms. Albright also said she had discussed with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali the advisability of visiting Mogadishu during his present African tour and noted: "I think that there are aspects to it that might be not the best."

U.S. officials have expressed concern about the timing of Dr. Ghali's visit to the volatile capital, but Ms. Albright said: "He is the secretary-general and he is entitled to do what he wants."

Aideed supporters demonstrated in Mogadishu Sunday with an angry message for Dr. Ghali — any visit by him to their country would be unwelcome.

"Dr. Ghali has bombed us and murdered us. We don't want him here," screamed an Aideed aide through a loudspeaker as he perched on the balcony of a ruined building in Mogadishu.

The crowd, composed main-

ly of colourfully-dressed women and children, waved their fists and bellowed back: "Boutros! Ghali down, UNOSOM (the U.N. Operation in Somalia) down!"

The Washington Post reported Sunday that U.N. officials in Mogadishu rejected peace overtures from Gen. Aideed a month before a battle that left 18 U.S. soldiers dead.

Gen. Aideed offered to cease hostilities and begin a "mutual dialogue" a month before the Oct. 3 battle, the Post said in a report from Mogadishu, citing a confidential U.N. document.

The offer was part of a series of discussions through back channels during which U.N. officials, often without their superiors' knowledge, tried to strike a peace agreement even while a massive effort to capture Gen. Aideed was underway, the Post said.

The report was based on information from John Drysdale, who resigned last month as political adviser to Adm. Howe.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Cardiologist

Fellowship in Cardiology (R.F)
Diplomate of Internal Medicine
Former Head of Cardiac Unit at Al-Basheer Hospital M.O.H.
Amman is opening his own private Cardiac Clinic in Amman.
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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Former Head of Chest Unit in Basheer Hospital is opening his own private Chest Clinic at Ledd Building, near Amal Maternity Hospital.
Jabal Al-Husseini - Amman - Tel. (Clinic) 695436
(Res.) 797558 Opening times 9-1 a.m. 4-7 p.m.

Iran warms up to Iraq, S. Arabia to fend off U.S.

By Laurent Maillard
Agence France Presse

TEHRAN — Iran has launched a campaign to normalise relations with its former enemies Iraq and Saudi Arabia, hoping the move will cripple U.S. efforts to isolate the Islamic republic.

After a three-year break in contacts, Tehran and Baghdad are to resume discussions on "pending issues" and a ceasefire signed between the two countries after their 1980-88 war.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was due in Baghdad Sunday following a decision by foreign ministers from the two countries during a meeting at the U.N. General Assembly last month.

"We have decided to solve our problems with Iraq," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in announcing Mr. Zarif's visit last week.

Iran had previously demanded war reparations — \$100 billion by U.N. estimates — along with freedom for its POWs and a halt to Baghdad's support for Iranian rebels as conditions for reestablishing ties.

Although Tehran has avoided raising those conditions ahead of Mr. Zarif's visit, foreign diplomats here doubt that Iran would agree to a settlement with Iraq without securing at least part of the demands.

"The rapprochement with Iraq is essentially tactical," a European ambassador said. "It's a move to convince the United States and its allies in the region that Iran is a potential source of trouble and could not be isolated."

"Iran has constantly squeezed a weak Iraq for concessions without offering anything in return," an Arab diplomat said.

On the domestic front, observers say Iran will have no problems in resuming ties with Iraq, which is considered by many radicals as Iran's "natural ally" in the struggle against the United States.

Normalisation of ties with Baghdad would also be supported by the families of pris-

oners of war and of those missing in action as well as by the religious lobby in Iran, which sees improved relations as an opportunity to resume pilgrimages to Shi'ite Muslim shrines in Iraq.

But the chances of better relations appear limited as, according to one diplomat, "Iraq is still the main military threat to Iran in the region."

Moreover, getting too close to Baghdad could backfire and "provoke the international community, notably Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours," with which Iran has been seeking rapprochement, he said.

Iran, in a bid to counter American pressure and to ensure its strategic interests, has also stepped up efforts to boost

ties with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies, all considered U.S. strongholds in the region.

A reconciliation with Saudi Arabia, after 12 years of animosity, could also lead to improved ties with other Gulf Arab states and to common oil policies in a bid to control prices, diplomats said.

In a surprise move last month, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani telephoned Saudi King Fahd to seek help in pushing through an accord during a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva.

Mr. Rafsanjani's initiative was seen as instrumental in reaching a new agreement on

production ceilings and on ways to curb price falls.

But unlike Iraq, efforts at improving ties with Saudi Arabia are expected to be strongly opposed by Iranian radicals, who regard King Fahd as an "enemy worse than the United States" and one who represents "American Islam."

Determined to avoid such opposition, however, the government has obtained the approval of spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the National Security Council for a rapprochement with Riyadh.

"This confirms that Iran is ready to go much farther than in the past in normalising relations with its southern neighbours."

Hariri hopes Christopher visit will unlock peace talks logjam

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Sunday expressed hope that talks with Israel could be unlocked by a visit to the Middle East of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

In an interview with Radio Monte-Carlo, monitored in Cyprus, Mr. Hariri blamed Israel for the lack of progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track of the Middle East peace talks that started in October 1991 in Madrid.

Israel was "obviously busy with the Palestinians," Mr. Hariri said to explain the lack of progress with Lebanon. He was referring to Israel's secret autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Secret negotiations in Oslo gave way to the signature on Sept. 13 of the historic deal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, Beirut wants Israel to withdraw from a southern Lebanese zone occupied in 1978. Israel has said it will not withdraw unless security arrangements are made first.

Mr. Hariri expressed hope that "a new situation would be created" after visits to the re-

gion of U.S. special coordinator to the Middle East Denis Ross and Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Ross is expected to visit the region next week, whereas Mr. Christopher's trip has not been confirmed yet in Washington.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Saturday in Cairo that Mr. Christopher will come early November to the Middle East.

U.N. troops wounded

Three U.N. peacekeepers were wounded in South Lebanon late Saturday by an artillery shell fired from inside Israel's self-styled "security zone," a U.N. spokesman said.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said three Nepalese soldiers with the nine-nation force were wounded when a shell slammed into their post near Majdaloun village, just outside the zone in South Lebanon.

"The shell hit the position directly. Three soldiers from the Nepalese contingent were wounded, one of them seriously," Mr. Goksel told Reuters. "The IDF (Israeli defence forces) claim they did not fire the shell."

The 5,400-strong UNIFIL

was deployed in South Lebanon in 1978 after an Israeli incursion into the country.

About 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,500 of their militia allies from the South Lebanon Army (SLA) control the "security zone," running about 15 kilometres into South Lebanon.

Earlier on Saturday guerrillas using heavy machineguns attacked a hilltop Israeli post at Sojoud on the edge of the buffer strip, security sources said.

Israeli gunners fired back heavy artillery shells on to the Iqilim Al Toufah mountain ridge from which pro-Israeli Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas attack the zone, the sources added.

Palestinian and pro-Israeli Lebanese groups determined to sabotage the PLO-Israeli peace pact have staged about 35 attacks on the Israelis and their SLA allies in the zone since the deal was signed in Washington last month.

Israeli and SLA forces on Tuesday killed three Palestinians who entered the zone, taking to seven the number of guerrillas killed in the south this week.

A Palestinian group said the three guerrillas were to attack targets in northern Israel.

Qatari minister first in Gulf to disclose contacts with Israel

DOHA (AP) — Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani has confirmed he met with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Sheikh Hamad, in an interview late Saturday with the Arabic service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, said he met briefly with Mr. Peres earlier this month in New York. It marked the first time a Gulf Arab official has acknowledged meeting with an Israeli official.

Mr. Peres, in his first interview with a Gulf Arab newspaper, Qatar's pro-government Al Sharq, said there have been secret meetings between himself and "a number of Arab officials." Mr. Peres told the newspaper's correspondent in Israel that the time was not right to publicise the meetings.

Sheikh Hamad, a member of Qatar's ruling Al Thani family, said he met with Mr. Peres in New York while both officials were attending the U.N. General Assembly.

"Discussions at the meeting were meant to encourage the Middle East peace process, especially on the Syrian and

Lebanese tracks, and to debate the issue of Holy Jerusalem," said the minister in the BBC interview that was picked up later by the official Qatari News Agency.

However, the agency said Sheikh Hamad denied reports in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz that a high-ranking Israeli official had recently visited Doha in an effort to establish ties and try to persuade the Gulf Arab state to help finance Palestinian self-rule.

The foreign minister also reaffirmed that Qatar would remain committed to the Arab boycott of Israel until the Arab League decides otherwise.

Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf region, have come under mounting pressure from the United States to normalise relations with Israel, end the boycott, begin trade with Israel and eliminate the blacklist of countries who do trade with the Jewish state.

Qatar and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance have supported the current peace process since it started in Madrid in October 1991.

The GCC states also blessed the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal



Shimon Peres

reached by the Palestine Liberation Organisation with Israel on condition that it be a first step towards a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

The agency said Sheikh Hamad said that Qatar welcomed the progress achieved in the peace process.

Qatar was the first country of the GCC alliance which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and United Arab Emirates, to revamp relations frozen with Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Qatar sent back its ambassador to Baghdad late last year.

"Since the Arabs and Israel who fought each other for 50 years were now approaching peace, it is more appropriate for the Arabs to consider steps to bring views among them closer," Sheikh Hamad told BBC.

Cyprus is on alert against possible terror

LIMASSOL (AP) — Frogmen and helicopter-borne anti-terrorist policemen staged manoeuvres Saturday to demonstrate their ability to protect 48 world leaders attending next week's Commonwealth summit conference.

The exercise marked the end of a year-long training of 2,500 policemen assigned to protect the guests, who include Queen Elizabeth II.

Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides led hundreds of people who lined up the beach of this southern port city to watch frogmen surfacing from under the water and policemen slithering down on ropes from helicopters to storm a supposedly hijacked ship, over-power terrorists and rescue hostages.

Small arms fire and undersea explosions echoed during the hour-long exercise.

In addition to the queen, 47 leaders of Britain's former colonies and dependencies are scheduled to attend the 7-day conference, opening Thursday.

This tiny island has often been caught in the cross-fire of regional violence, and officials have admitted in recent days that providing security for the summit had become a major problem.

Officially, Cyprus has refrained from speculating on the likely targets or threats.

But the Irish Republican Army, for example, is widely considered a logical menace to the British monarch.

Over the past 20 years, there have been several plane hijackings, political assassinations and bombings in Cyprus as the Middle East's secret services settled scores.

In 1985, three Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas, including a Briton, killed two Israeli men and a woman aboard a yacht in the marina at Larnaca. The Palestinians claimed the three victims worked for Mossad, Israel's secret service. Israel said they were tourists.

A car-bomb explosion on Feb. 14, 1988, killed three senior PLO officers in Limassol. They had come to Cyprus to charter a ship to carry protesters to Israel on a trip to dramatise the plight of Palestinians.

The day after the car-bombing, the ferry the three officers had chartered, the phryne, was disabled by a limpet mine in the Limassol harbour.

British sovereign bases on the island also have been targeted.

Wounded U.S. pilot returns home

FORT CAMPBELL, Kentucky (Agencies) — A flag-waving and newly decorated U.S. army helicopter pilot, Michael Durant, returned to his Kentucky home base on Saturday after 11 days of captivity in Somalia.

"This is your last stop. This is your home. We're going to take care of you. We're going to get you back on your feet," Mr. Durant's commanding officer, Major General John King, said at a welcoming ceremony. About 3,000 well-wishers cheered as the wounded army warrant officer arrived at the base.

Mr. Durant, 32, was captured after a gunbattle on Oct. 3 with supporters of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aided. He was released on Thursday.

Earlier on Saturday, Mr. Durant was awarded the Purple Heart, given to military personnel wounded in action, by Army Chief of Staff Gordon Sullivan at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

Mr. Durant was carried off the C-14 military aircraft at Andrews on a stretcher and met by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defence Deputy Secretary William Perry and other dignitaries.

Fighting threatens security in northern Afghanistan

By Terence White
Agence France Presse

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan — Fighting in the north of Afghanistan — generally regarded as a safe haven for the persistent factional clashes in Kabul — suggests a serious security breakdown in the region.

The four central northern Afghan provinces of Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan and Fariab, which make up the power base of ex-communist warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, are coming under severe pressure from independent local groups, as well as witnessing internal rifts among Gen. Dostum's own commanders.

Perhaps the most serious incident was the reported jet bombardment about two weeks ago of Gen. Dostum's war college located outside Balkh's provincial capital Mazar-e-Sharif, and of his personal residence in Sheborkhan, capital of neighbouring Jowzjan province.

The jet strikes were reportedly ordered by his rival Ismail Khan, in retaliation for Gen. Dostum's bombing of a contested border town.

A spokesman for Mr. Khan in Kabul denied the Sheborkhan attack but confirmed a jet-strike against "a military centre" in Mazar.

Mr. Khan, governor of the western province of Herat, has been steadily expanding his influence into six of Afghanistan's nine southwest provinces, cleaning up what he describes as "militia" elements, or remnants of the former communist regime.

Critics, however, accuse him of attacking any groups who refuse to acknowledge his sovereignty.

In Badghis province — sandwiched between Herat and Gen. Dostum's Fariab — Ismail Khan recently captured the border towns of Ghormach and Murghab, and his infantry were pressed on to within 45 kilometres of Maimana, the capital of Fariab, before falling back to Ghormach.

Gen. Dostum reportedly used his mazar-based jets to bomb Ghormach in an attempt to dislodge Mr. Khan, who belongs to the powerful Jamiat-e-Islami faction headed by Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

In Mazar-e-Sharif Gen. Dostum's forces and Jamiat had a showdown which resulted in barricades being erected in the streets, local merchants reported.

They said the dispute, which narrowly avoided escalating into an armed clash, resulted from Mr. Rabbani's displeasure over Gen. Dostum's unofficial foreign visits.

Gen. Dostum, who holds no state office, has made several trips in the region, most recently to Turkey and the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

According to diplomats here, the trips to the Soviet republics were state sanctioned, but the Turkey visit was made on Gen. Dostum's own initiative.

Gen. Dostum, who cut short his stay in Turkey due to the disturbances in Mazar, continues to be courted by Jamiat and the rival Hezb-e-Islami faction of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Both the Jamiat and the Hezb, which fought out a bitter power struggle for control of Kabul after the Mujahideen takeover of the capital in April 1992, are seeking to gain overall military superiority through an alliance with Gen. Dostum's movement.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush denies link to Kuwait venture

KUWAIT (R) — Former U.S. President George Bush denied Sunday a report that he was involved in a joint irrigation pipeline venture with Kuwaitis and Egyptians. "I have no such connection, direct or indirect. Indeed I had never heard of the business venture your paper mentions," Mr. Bush said in a letter published on the front page of Kuwait's English-language Arab Times Sunday edition. The Kuwait News Agency reported on Oct. 5 that Mr. Bush had agreed to head a joint Kuwaiti-American-Egyptian venture called Gaya Technology to manufacture water filtration pipelines for underground desert irrigation in the Middle East. The report, published in the Arab Times the following day, said the company would build a \$10 million factory in Egypt that would manufacture the pipes. "When I left the White House I was determined to conduct myself in such a way as to avoid any kind of activity, anywhere, that might diminish the respect that I feel for the office I was so proud to hold," Mr. Bush's letter said. "I decided I would have no connection with any business enterprise in the USA or abroad. I would serve on no business board of directors. I would make no personal investment in any business activity. To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, my personal finances are being handled by a trust company." Mr. Bush visited Kuwait on April 14-16 to receive a medal from Kuwaiti leaders to mark his leadership of the coalition that liberated the emirate from Iraqi occupation in February 1991. Mr. Bush's party included his sons, Neil and Marvin, former Secretary of State James Baker, retired army Lieutenant General Thomas Kelly and former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Rushdie exhorts Europe to take stand

PARIS (AP) — British author Salman Rushdie, living under a death sentence decreed by Iran, on Saturday exhorted European nations to stand up to "this regime of gangsters." Europe "must make its choice," Mr. Rushdie said in a letter to the newly-formed Defence Committee for Salman Rushdie. "Does it want to keep this tyranny alive or send it back to the outer shadows from where it came?" The British author provoked the ire of Iran's former spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, with his book, "Satanic Verses," Ayatollah Khomeini, who is now dead, issued a decree in 1989 ordering Mr. Rushdie's death. Iran refuses to lift it, and the British author has lived in hiding ever since. Mr. Rushdie recalled the recent murder of his Norwegian editor, William Nygaard, and asked: "How many innocent victims must be killed so that Europe accepts to confront Iran?" "To tolerate these murders, to feign ignorance of evil can only encourage (Iran)." "Don't be fooled by this regime of gangsters which appears to have an absolute and tyrannical power, because it is at once feared and hated by Iranians." It was unclear whether Mr. Rushdie was adding his voice to a row between Germany and its British and American allies who protested Friday over talks held earlier this month between German and Iranian intelligence chiefs, a seeming bid to strengthen relations. Germany has important trade ties with Iran. The Paris-based defence committee, presided over by sociologist Claude Lefort, was formally established this weekend, in part to "spread the defence of Salman Rushdie to schools, universities and libraries." It hopes also to act as a pressure group on French and European institutions.

Vietnamese premier holds talks in UAE

DUBAI (R) — Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh held talks Sunday with officials in the United Arab Emirates as part of a tour of Gulf Arab states to boost trade relations. The official Emirates News Agency said Mr. Khanh had arrived in the UAE on Saturday night. While in Kuwait, Mr. Khanh was quoted as saying that Vietnam was seeking loans from Kuwait to finance development projects and has offered to sell rice. UAE newspapers quoted him as saying that Vietnam was interested in promoting trade relations with the UAE and exploring new opportunities for economic cooperation.

Um Jihad: State would help make up for assassination

TEL AVIV (AP) — The widow of assassinated Khalil Al Wazir told an Israeli journalist that a Palestinian state would help compensate for her husband's death. "If the agreements (with Israel) will lead to a Palestinian state, all those who died, of them being my husband, did not die in vain," Mr. Wazir's widow told Pichas Inbari of the daily Al Hamishmar newspaper. Reports published here have suggested the remains of Mr. Wazir, Abu Jihad, would be brought to Gaza for burial after Israel's withdrawal is complete next spring. Mr. Wazir, who was responsible for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) military operations against Israel, was killed in his home in Tunis in April 1988 by an eight-member squad. The PLO blamed Israel for his assassination, but Israel has never officially acknowledged the killing.

Egypt starts training Palestinian police

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has started to train hundreds of Palestinians to form a new police force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. An Interior Ministry spokesman said Sunday. The spokesman confirmed reports in Cairo newspapers quoting Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi as saying 50 police officers, 130 administrative officials and hundreds of individuals had started training at Cairo's police college and other centres. Under the Palestine Liberation Organisation's self-rule deal with Israel, Palestinians will start to police Gaza and Jericho in December as Israeli troops begin withdrawing from the two areas. Palestinian police will be deployed elsewhere in the West Bank later next year. As well as police, units of the Palestine Liberation Army are training in Egypt and Jordan to become a Palestinian national guard. Their tasks will include helping to control the Palestinian side of Gaza's international borders. Israel will remain responsible for external security under the agreement. Thousands of Palestinians inside the occupied territories have volunteered to serve but it is not clear how big the police force or the national guard will be.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 — Les Aventuriers de L'Espace
18:00 — Omnisciences
18:30 — Maguy
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — The weekly sport magazine
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Delta
21:10 — The House of Eliott
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — The Chancer

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 — Fajr
05:37 — (Sunrise) Duha
11:21 — Dhuhur
14:34 — Asr
17:48 — Maghreb
18:22 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 817040
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624901
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 659322

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be partly cloudy and dusty. There will be a chance of local showers, and winds will be southeasterly moderate to active. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy and dusty and there will be a chance of thunder showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 16 / 29

Agaba 26 / 36

Deserts 15 / 30

Jordan Valley 15 / 30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29.2, Agaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730

Dr. Jamal Al Ja'fari 796469

Dr. Yousef Naser 751144

Dr. Mohamed Umair 888983

Fina pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 78336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 62672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637669

Nairoukh pharmacy 62672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi 995710

Akouda pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shahin 995710

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 695800

Price Complaints 661176



DS VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT: Queen Noor Sunday opens a charity bazaar for the benefit of the village in the south of Jordan. All will go towards the implementation of a comprehensive development plan for the village, in Ma'an governorate. The Queen's visit to the village in Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF), with the Promise Society, implementation of various projects for the village, which population of 3,000. Dahouk Al Qasbi this year's charity bazaar, two previous fund-raising events

iting British official says dan deserves full support

(Petra) — Visiting British foreign officer man Sunday said he understood Jordan's economic situation and that the King deserves all forms of support in the Middle East. Mr. Hassan outlined Jordan's stand and its call for a just peace based on U.S. resolutions. He praised the European Community (EC) continued support for the peace process. Mr. Hassan also spoke about the large economic burdens on Jordan. Mr. Hassan, who was quoted as saying Saturday that his country would offer economic aid to the Palestinians, is on a week-long tour of the region as part of the British government's efforts to speed up the peace process. At another meeting Sunday with Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, Mr. Hassan discussed Jordan's economic relations with the future Palestinian self-rule government. Dr. Anani said the government was willing to allow Jordanian banks to open branches in the West Bank provided they remain under the control of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and work in coordination with the Palestinian authorities. The minister criticised Israel for trying to benefit from the financial aid pledged to the Palestinians by maintaining that the Palestine economy was part of the Israeli economy. He said Israel plans to impose customs duty on goods coming into the West Bank from Jordan which, he said, would make it impossible for the Palestinians to trade with Jordan and also would mean that the pledged aid would benefit the Israeli economy alone.

FRIES ON DIS: His Royal Highness Faisal Ben Al Sunday stands in Royal Highness Prince Hassan in the Jordan Inter-Exhibition at the International exhibition, organ- ized by the International establishment, in- electric equipment lances, furniture, food items, che- cosmetics, flowers, and tiles. Taking the eight-day ex- are 120 industrial, ral and service s from 11 coun- ding Germany, he United States,



France, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Palestine, Taiwan, India, in addition to Jordan. Among the companies taking part are 20 Palestinian industrial com-

ineers to meet on bio-technology

(Petra) — About 100 engineers from Jordan, and foreign coun- ke part in a three- ne on chemical opening at the f Jordan Monday, Salah Al Din Al of the conference committee. Jordan will submit 46 papers dealing with local industries such as phosphate, potash, cement, petroleum refining and glass manufacturing — all topics closely related to the environment — in addition to chemical engineering sciences, said Dr. Said. Organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), the conference will review 105 working papers presented by delegates from 25 participating countries. Among the delegates will be tens of professors employed by faculties of engineering in Arab, European and American universities, as well as researchers in the application of chemical engineering, added Dr. Said. He said that during the conference the university will hold a three-day exhibition of engineering equipment. In addition to the relationship between industry and the environment, he said, discussions will focus on occupational safety measures and planning chemical industries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

hibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at in Art Gallery. tra Exhibition — a presentation of vities of Jordanian and international ions involved in archaeological, apic and environmental research Petra region at the Royal Cultural ure drawings exhibition by late car- Najj Al Ali at the Pakhtani Univer- humai Club in Jabal Amman. ion of handicrafts at Abu Jaber Yadoudeh (next to Kan Zaman). ibration by artists Abir Al Bawab, 'Ujjalat, Mohammad Abu Affich, Mascha'd, and Mohammad Abu Abu Nadr Club. ibration by artists Mahmoud Taha man Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery. exhibition displaying pictures from and Syria by German artist J.

- Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- Art exhibition by Mrs. Lucy Mario, Janine Saef, and Tete Wegelius at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka'a Art Gallery in Al Fuhah.
- Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubeidi at the French Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawteideh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- Discussion session entitled "The Palestine Cause and the Palestine Liberation Organisation After the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Arab solidarity ensures area's interests — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, which is keen on maintaining good relations with all Arab states, is currently striving to improve these relations, according to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday. The Kingdom has no interest in boycotting any of the Arab countries and believes that the Arab nation's highest interests could best be guaranteed through pan-Arab solidarity, the prime minister said during a visit to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) where he met with CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi and senior bank staff. A lesson must be learned from previous experiments in economic fields and such ex-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi (Petra photo)

120 specialists to review 'future horizons in a changing world'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — More than 120 economic, administrative and social development experts are gathering today (Monday) at Forte Grand Hotel in Amman for a three-day conference entitled "Future Horizons in a Changing World" to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Organised by the Amman office of the Engineering Management Consultants Team International, the meeting will deal with technological de-

velopment, the environment and democracy administration, among other related topics, according to Maqbouleh Hamoudeh, the group's Amman office manager. The delegates will also direct their attention to challenges facing institutions of the Arab World, the post peace era, and challenges and prospects of new markets for Arab products, added Mrs. Hamoudeh. She told the Jordan Times that experts from Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia will deliver lectures to the audience which will include at least 20 participants from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian delegate Nabil Shaath, who is also Team International's board chairman, is expected to present a working paper tackling economy and technology, citing experiments in Southeast Asia for Arab countries to benefit from, said Mrs. Hamoudeh. Another paper, dealing with management in Arab institutions, will be presented by Ibrahim Omari, Team International's vice chairman, according to Mrs. Hamoudeh. She said 20 working papers are to be reviewed by the conference, the first of its kind to be organised in Amman. The move towards peace in the region, its impact on the Arabs and the future challenges together with the spread of democracy and political pluralism will feature in other topics to be reviewed, she added. She said Rima Khalaf from Jordan will present a research paper entitled "Jordan versus competition from the outside world." Mrs. Hamoudeh said Team International, a non-governmental pan-Arab orga-

Thoraya Obaid named ESCWA deputy head

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has appointed Thoraya Obaid as deputy executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Mrs. Obaid, a Saudi Arabian national, was born on March 4, 1945, and has a Ph.D. in English literature with a minor in anthropology from Wayne State University, Michigan. She joined ESCWA in March 2, 1975 and was promoted to different posts, the most recent of which was Chief of the Social Development, Population and Human Settlements Division. During her career with ESCWA, she established the Arab Women and Development Programme in the Secretariat. She supervised the implementation of many technical assistance projects at the national and regional levels and provided technical advice to ESCWA member states in the area of women and development. Mrs. Obaid organised and participated in many workshops at the national and regional levels, as well as many international, regional and national seminars and conferences, in addition to publishing papers, in the area of social development, population and women and development. She has served on many regional and international committees. Currently Mrs. Obaid is serving as a member of the Advisory Editorial Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. She is also a member of the International Advisory Committee on Women and chairs the Arab Regional Advisory Programme Committee of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Within ESCWA, she represented the Secretariat in the Appointment and Promotion Board at the headquarters in New York. Mrs. Obaid is a mother of two girls.



Thoraya Obaid

Europe could absorb Jordan's winter produce, says AMO chief JEDCO plans local, international trade fairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agricultural trade exposition held this month in Cologne, Germany revealed that European markets would easily absorb several Jordanian products, especially during the winter, according to Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO). Dr. Lawzi, who returned Saturday to Amman after representing Jordan at the exposition, said that Europe needs green beans, strawberries, sweet peppers and early seedless grapes, as well as herbs such as thyme, sage, mint and parsley; all of which can be grown in the kingdom, particularly in the warm winter months in the Jordan Valley. He said that European markets would require reduced amounts of Jordanian cucumber, eggplants, marrow and tomatoes, since large amounts of these products are imported from Spain, Portugal, Greece Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, Morocco and Israel. Referring to Jordan's participation in the expo, Dr. Lawzi said the AMO, in cooperation with several exporters, displayed vegetables, fruits and domestic plants and flowers at the expo. He said 3,975 firms representing 75 nations participated in the agricultural event. Jordanian products, which for the first time included white cheese, attracted visitors and importers, he added. Dr. Lawzi said he held talks with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development on marketing Jordanian products in Germany. The agency, he said, has been helping Jordan to display its products at German fairs. JEDCO plans fairs. Meanwhile, the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) is planning Jordanian trade fairs and exhibitions to be held inside Jordan and abroad next year, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted JEDCO Director General Mohammad Bani Hani as saying Sunday. The fairs and exhibitions are aimed at opening new markets for Jordanian products in an ever-expanding world market, said Dr. Bani Hani. Since its establishment in the 1970s, JEDCO has succeeded in promoting the sale of Jordanian goods through its trade fairs held in Arab countries including Tunisia, Yemen, Oman and Morocco and by participating in international fairs in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Syria, France, South Korea and Germany, Dr. Bani Hani added. The fairs constitute part of JEDCO's endeavours to promote exports of national products, a programme which the government has been financing through a \$5 million grant obtained from Switzerland in the last few years, said the JEDCO chief. Apart from these fairs, JEDCO has been active lately in promoting the work of its centres set up in 10 centres in Arab and foreign countries, according to Dr. Bani Hani. He said last year, JEDCO opened centres in Washington and Muscat and previously it had centres in Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Russia. JEDCO is continuously cooperating with local and foreign consultancy services to explore new markets.

New book looks into Islamic Action Front

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Al Urdun Al Jadid (New Jordan) Research Centre has published a new book in its series about political life in Jordan. The book, entitled The Islamic Action Front, is a translation of an Arabic version on the front, with an added forward that describes in brief the history of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Jordan. It includes sections on the IAF ideology and principles, its organisational structure and a biography of IAF Secretary General Ishaq Al Farhan. This is the fourth title in the centre's series 'about political life in the country. It is the first to be translated and published in English.

Compensation panel receives 96,858 Jordanian claims

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghazawi Sunday said the United Nations Committee on Compensation for the Gulf war victims has received 96,858 claims from Jordanians by the end of September, 1993. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ghazawi, who is also chairman of the Higher Committee for Compensation, said all claims are governed by criteria set by the United Nations Security Council, which in this case is the Board of Directors of the International Committee on Compensation. The claims will be studied thoroughly before any decision is taken on them, Mr. Ghazawi said. He added that the International Committee has so far taken no final decision on any of the claims submitted to it by member states whose citizens have been affected by the 1991 Gulf war.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

ANNOUNCES THE INVITATION TO BID NO. 31F/93

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 31F/93 (for the manufacture, supply, engineering, delivery to site, supervision, of erection testing and commissioning of millsite, electrical substations, power supply, and distribution system at Eshidiya Mines). The bid is financed by Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, loan No. 224. The bidding documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Monday, 15.11.1993. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 200 for each set of bidding documents. The closing date for submitting bids is 14:00 hours local time, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1993. Sameh Madani Managing Director

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18	5830	PLATE WITH CHOCOLATE - PATCHI - SUWEIFA
19	4396	3 PORCELAIN POTS WITH SWEETS - FORSAN
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21	8348	SILVER DISH AND CHOCOLATES - SWEET SUPERMARKET

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THE CPF WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SINCERELY THANK ALL THOSE WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH OUR EVENT, DONORS AND WALKERS, AND ALL!

SERBIA

Belgrade

ANIA

"I understand, making his head like that. I can't about Azerbaijan. What is anyone for just another?"

IMS

Jues

S

Dept.

DOWN TOWN

WEIBOEN

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Director General:
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Fresh start for Sudan?

SUDAN'S GENERALS who on Saturday chose to dissolve their ruling Revolutionary Command Council deserve to be commended and congratulated. It is hoped that by doing so the generals have put Sudan back on the path to political tolerance, democracy, pluralism and human rights. The Sudanese leadership, whether under Western pressure or not, needs to reform its political system and join the trend towards democracy and ethnic and political pluralism. That country has been plagued by a civil war, mass displacement of people, poverty, illiteracy, famine and the denial of political freedoms. Each of these factors has only contributed to the general deterioration of the situation in that Arab country. Sudan does not lack the natural resources, qualified leaders and friends in the Arab World and in the West who are willing to extend a helping hand.

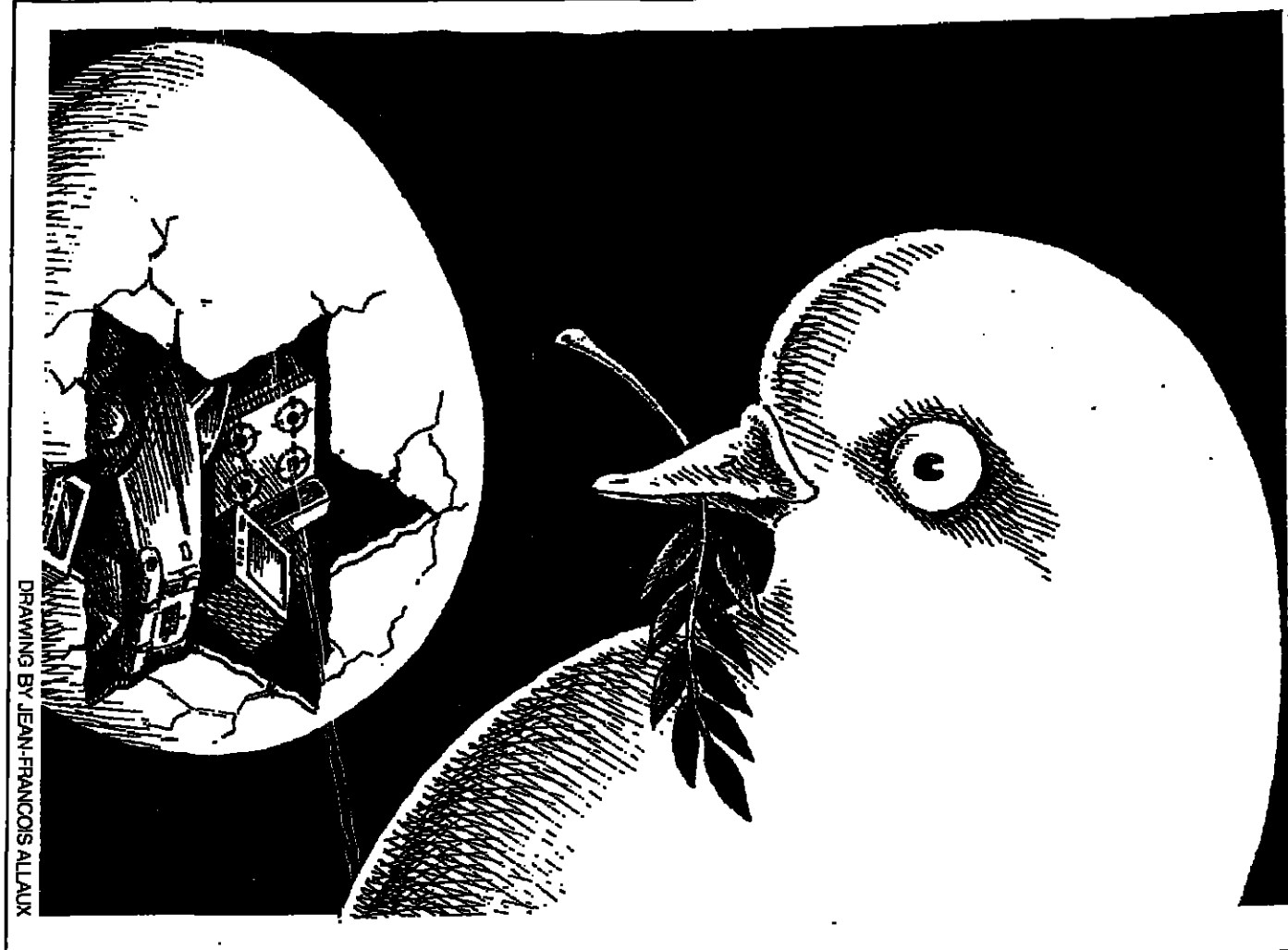
The Sudanese president, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, has now a formidable task in front of him. He has to recognise and bring together the different political factions in the country and to win their support for political reconciliation, especially between north and south. He needs to pursue in earnest the deadlocked talks with the SPLA, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, to put an end to bloodshed and to the squandering of that country's meagre resources on armament and fighting. He needs to improve the country's relations with his neighbours and also with the West that has been targeting Sudan lately. And most importantly, he needs to consolidate the gains the country has made in economy, especially in agriculture. For economic development is a prerequisite for stability.

Gen. Bashir cannot certainly do all of that single-handedly. He will require the counsel and assistance of veteran political leaders and qualified Sudanese technocrats dispersed all over the world. The Sudanese people have suffered enough. After decades of turmoil, poverty and famine they deserve a hope for a fresh start.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS largely due to Israel's intransigence that no progress has been achieved along the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. What Israel seems to want is a kind of peace in which the Arabs will normalise their relations with the Jewish state, opening their borders for its trade and ending the Arab boycott without ceding any territory it occupied in the 1967 wars, said the daily. Holding on to very weak pretexts, Israeli leaders have been stalling and dragging their feet about the question of withdrawing troops from the Golan Heights and the southern Lebanese territory, thus making it impossible for any peace settlement, added the paper. If Israel believes that its agreement with the Palestinians would serve as a form of pressure on Lebanon and Syria, to succumb to Israeli wishes, it is no doubt living in total illusion, said the paper. The Israeli position has no doubt prompted the Syrian foreign minister to declare in Cairo yesterday that there will be no return to the negotiating table with Israel unless they were positive indicators on the Israeli part. Syria believes that talks with the Israelis over the past two years was just a waste of time and effort, the paper continued. By so declaring, said the paper, Damascus is telling the whole world that it is for a just and comprehensive peace which can ensure the return of the usurped lands and is not ready to stand further Israeli procrastinations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Sunday commented on a recent report by the Arab League which revealed the high rates of illiteracy in the Arab World. The report said that 38 per cent of the men and 65 of the women in the Arab World are illiterate, which means that social and economic development is very poor and lagging behind most nations, said Taher Al Udwan. This Arab World, which has spent more than \$400 billion over the past two decades on arms which were not used for any purpose and which did not help regain lost Arab territory, is indeed living under the heavy burden of illiteracy, making any talk about catching up with other nations futile, said the writer. Udwan attributed the Arab World's failure to achieve any economic and cultural progress to the poor infrastructure which makes any move towards achieving success in political, economic and social fields out of reach. He said that this high rate of illiteracy is bound to retard not only any progress, but also determines the kind of governments that rule in the Arab World and the manner in which the Arab peoples deal with the political, economic and social challenges.



Cola war displaces real war in the new Israel

By Glenn Frankel

WHEN I first met Major General Amram Mitzna of the Israeli army in late 1987, he was spending 18-hour days throttling the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank while preventing terrorist attacks across Israel's border with Jordan. A much-decorated war hero with a military man's ruthless determination and a liberal's conscience, he didn't much care for the work, as he was the first to admit.

The last time I saw Gen. Mitzna, a few weeks ago, he had retired from the army after a distinguished 30-year career and was running for mayor of Haifa. He had turned down the prospect of becoming director-general of Israel's Ministry of Defence to take over a city of 251,000, a much tougher and grubbier position. The reason? "You know, as we begin to make peace agreements with our neighbours, security is no longer the most important issue on the agenda," he told me. "Now it's economic and social questions that are going to decide Israel's future. This is where we're heading and this is where I want to get involved."

Amram Mitzna's decision is in many ways Israel's as well. Over the past half dozen years ever since the Palestinian uprising, the intifada shattered two decades of status quo relationships and status quo thinking in both Arab and Jewish society. Israel has been on the move. Last month's historic signing of a joint declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was dramatic confirmation of that national journey.

The old Israel — heroic, insular, beleaguered and collectivist, surrounded by implacable enemies in a state of constant siege — still captures most of the headlines. But a new Israel, on display in the Washington ceremony, is coming of age — still cognisant of its tragic, blood-stained past, but self-confident, pluralistic, more open and more bourgeois. The old Israel needed generals; the new Israel needs mayors, high-tech engineers, risk-taking entrepreneurs, modern managers and lots and lots of demanding insatiable consumers. And, of course, to really blossom, it needs the peaceful relations with its neighbours that last month's accord held out as a promise.

My family and I lived in Israel between 1986 and 1989, when I was Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post. We returned for a sabbatical last year, a few weeks after the Israeli left captured the June election and the Labour Party's Yitzhak Rabin became prime minister. We were astonished by how much had changed in that brief time.

The defeat of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud — which after 15 years in power believed itself to have a permanent lock on the government — was the most visible part of it. But there was much more. Three years of solid economic growth, a 10-per cent population increase due to the immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union, and the gradual crumbling of the old, quasi-socialist economy had turned Israel into a very different country. The streets of Jerusalem were jam-

med with late-model cars, the supermarkets stocked with imported foods, and there were new shopping malls, coffee shops and American fast-food franchises wherever we turned. Brave new high-tech firms like Scitex and slimmed-down, revitalised companies like Koor and El Al were booming.

Even the seemingly immutable features of Israeli life had changed. The army and the government press office had moved from the old Zionist six-day work week to the Western-style five-day variety. And the operators at Bezeq, the infamous state telephone monopoly whose bureaucrats could have given insensitivity lessons to the KGB, seemed nicer. I called about a malfunctioning phone line and, wonder of wonders, a Bezeq technician arrived and fixed it on the same afternoon. I thought I'd died and gone to Switzerland.

New life has come to grassroots movements that for years were buried under the weight of the obsession with security. The Israeli Knesset (parliament) held its first public hearing on gay rights several months ago and another one recently on sexual harassment of women in the army. By early next year Israelis will be recycling paper, metal and glass for the first time. Air and water pollution suddenly matter to people who not so long ago seemed to spend all of their free time and conversation worrying about the next war.

The new wars are American-style and bloodless the cola war after Pepsi (which for years had honoured the Arab boycott against Israel) took the plunge and entered the fray against Coke, the pizza war between Dominos and Pizza Hut, neither of which had existed here when we left in 1989, and coming soon, the French fry war between McDonald's, which has sought to break up the state-sanctioned local monopoly on frozen fries, and the local Burger-Ranch.

Of course, all of this yearning for westernised consumerism isn't an unvarnished good. The old Israel was a cohesive community that took care of its own and gave all of its members a sense of shared purpose and sacrifice that life in the capitalist fleshpots of the West too often lacks. There was also an egalitarianism — the head of one of Israel's largest computer firms served in the same reserve military unit as his driver. In the mess hall and on patrol in the Gaza Strip, they were equals. The crime rate was ridiculously low, as was the unemployment rate.

The new Israel is enjoying single-digit inflation for the first time in decades, but is also burdened for the first time with double-digit unemployment. It is scrambling to absorb nearly a half million Russian Jews, the cream of a former superpower, into a country of 5 million. And it is still wrestling with the tensions and contradictions of trying to be a Jewish state and a secular democracy at the same time.

Yitzhak Rabin, the old warrior, and his aides saw the wave of change sweeping the country and sought to ride it during the 1992 election. They ran a Bill Clinton-style campaign that promised "a new

agenda" that would turn Israel around. It was essentially an appeal to economic populism and to widespread disaffection with Mr. Shamir's Likud, which looked compromised, corrupted and bankrupt of ideas after so many years in power.

Like Mr. Clinton, Mr. Rabin has been slow to deliver. The Labour Party has a lot of constituents who still believe socialism isn't a dirty word and who still draw their salaries from the bureaucracy and old-style Zionist institutions. Mr. Rabin and his cabinet have had to tread lightly — the much-anticipated privatisation of state-run companies, the selling-off of state-held bank shares and the reform of the bloated, inefficient, state-controlled health fund have all gone much slower than planned.

At the same time, Mr. Rabin has changed spending priorities in fundamental ways. Much of the money that under the Likud went to fund the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza is now helping finance new roads, schools and other public needs inside Israel proper. The phone system and national electrical grid are undergoing intense modernisation. Such investments are invisible at first — they don't pay off for five or 10 years. But they will have a lasting impact on what Israel will look like in 2000.

What has been highly visible is Mr. Rabin's handling of the security situation — which all the warm, cuddly, Americanised rhetoric at last week's signing cannot disguise. Despite the handshake between Mr. Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat, relations between Israelis and Palestinians have been steadily deteriorating since the time of the Gulf crisis in 1990. In fact, relations have gotten worse still under Mr. Rabin, considered more pragmatic than Mr. Shamir. But Mr. Rabin, as it turned out, not only contributed to the enmity, he used it to help prepare the Israeli public for the deal of the decade.

Mr. Rabin understood that the Likud had become the victim of its own Greater Israel ideology. Since Likud preached that the West Bank and Gaza were a permanent part of Israel, it opposed the idea of separating the people of the territories from those of Israel proper. When waves of stabbings of Israelis by Palestinians occurred, Likud leaders would seal off the territories for a while, but were always compelled by their own beliefs to eventually open up the invisible borders again.

Mr. Rabin, whose Labour Party had long wanted to "separate Israel from Arab population centres, had no such compunctions. When a new spate of stabbings occurred in March, he sealed off the West Bank and Gaza indefinitely. It was a cruel move for the 120,000 or so Palestinians who earn their living inside the old Green Line dividing the territories from Israel. But to his amazement, Mr. Rabin, found that among Israelis it was the most popular act of his premiership, the stabbings declined markedly, and many Israelis breathed more freely in their own cities. Ever since Mr. Rabin has exploited this strong

desire for physical separation between the two peoples to help persuade his countrymen that now is the time to pull out of the territories.

Mr. Rabin doesn't always seem to grasp the nature of the wave he is attempting to ride. When a half dozen Israeli students were stabbed outside a Jerusalem high school earlier this year, he bemoaned the fact that young Israelis no longer flocked to self-defence training, as had earlier generations. Today's youths aren't made of the same stern stuff, he seemed to be saying, and he was correct, of course. But why should they be? They're more interested in cars and compact discs than the conflict, and Mr. Rabin's own policies have contributed to that mind-set.

And now comes the biggest gamble of all. With a few strokes of the pen and a much-photographed handshake, Mr. Rabin is hoping to end the old state of siege forever. He needs immediate payoffs; perhaps less violence in the occupied territories; diplomatic relations with moderate Arab states such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, and the long-awaited takeoff of an already ailing Israeli economy fuelled by the peace dividend. If he can convince Israelis that they lose nothing in security but gain economic benefits and international acceptance then he wins. It would be by far the most tangible asset he and Labour could take into the next election, currently scheduled for 1996.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Shamir's recently chosen successor as leader of Likud understands Mr. Rabin's strategy and is seeking to undermine it. He realises he can't attack the portion of the agreement that calls for withdrawal from Gaza — 80 to 90 per cent of Israelis support such a move and Mr. Netanyahu himself was among those Likudniks who tried unsuccessfully to convince Mr. Shamir to announce such a step before the last election. Instead he hammers away at the provisions that recognise the PLO and give it control over the West Bank town of Jericho, just 10 miles down the road from Jerusalem. This, says Mr. Netanyahu, is the sword aimed at Israel's heart. It is an argument that speaks to the fear lurking inside every Israeli, and if violence spins out of control in the former occupied territories once the Israeli army pulls back, his argument would have more appeal.

But Mr. Netanyahu has an ideological problem as well. Even more than Mr. Rabin, he is an Americanised television politician and an articulate apostle of modernism, consumerism and the bourgeois society. At the same time, as a security hawk he espouses the politics of the siege. These are contradictory themes — Israel can't afford to spend more than 14 per cent of its gross domestic product on defence (proportionately nearly three times what the United States spends) and buy new cars and houses as well. It cannot be a mobilised garrison-state always on the alert and at the same time a pluralistic, tolerant democracy. If Mr. Rabin's gamble pays off, the seams in Mr. Netanyahu's argument could begin to unravel. — The Washington Post.

Now attitude must change

Following is an editorial that appeared in the Oct. 8, 1993, issue of the London-based Middle East International.

A MONTH ago, on the eve of the historic meeting in Washington at which Israel's prime minister shook hands with the chairman of the PLO, we pointed out that if the agreement between them was to come to anything there was an urgent need for two things: for speed in its implementation and for the kind of gestures that would encourage confidence on each side in the sincerity of the other.

"Since then, alarmingly little has been done to put flesh on the bare bones of the agreement — and those on either side who seek to undermine it will be correspondingly encouraged. Above all, there has been no change in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, between the occupiers and the occupied, no indication that the mutual recognition which took the world by surprise is to be the prelude to mutual respect and to a reconciliation which is genuine and heartfelt rather than simply a matter of political calculation.

It is on the Palestinian side that such reassurance is most needed, since it is they who have most to lose by taking what is essentially a step in the dark. It is not easy to confound the critics who cry that the PLO has given up too much for too little. It is true, as Ahmad Jibril objects from Damascus, that Yasser Arafat has won no promise of self-determination, no right of return for the Palestinian refugees, no promise by the Israelis that they will remove the settlements illegally established since 1967 on Arab land, and no assurance that the destiny of Jerusalem will at any point be the subject of negotiation between the Israelis who have conquered and annexed it and the Palestinians whose home it was before the state of Israel came into existence. By contrast, says Mr. Jibril, the Israelis have conceded nothing except control of the Gaza Strip, which they were finding more trouble than it was worth.

The argument leaves out of account the central Israeli concession: the reluctant and belated recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. It is a concession which until very recently seemed unimaginable and which signals the dismantling of the principal barricade against an equitable solution to

the Palestine problem. The fulfilment of every large aim since 1948 is with the Palestinians, and so to the reality of Palestinianhood and the right with it.

All the same, the objectors like Ahmad Jibril are not entirely wrong. It is bound to appear to Palestinians who are nothing in their lives savagery of Israel. How else can a mass under occupation see his brothers at rents beaten and his home destroyed? He himself, like a contemporary, is the mill of Israeli procedures — how, be expected to in agreement which thing unless there heart of it a comp of attitude, a will adjust the imbalance the two parties to relationship?"

Until there is some change of attitude place and that it is to some tangible in the conditions a life in the occupied rejectionism will among Palestinians on a diet of unjust privation. The air promises by the in community to pour the occupied territory pair the damage will by the Israelis to infrastructure. That it would be even by Israelis themselves a some willingness course, to encourage, to liberate in any longer to im spirits of a gene Palestinians longing dom and self-expre

If those in the out who wish to help nians could devote their energies to out this change of could bring a swift and not just for th nians, but for the is selves. An experien tian commentator, mad Sid Ahmad of daily Al Ahram, has observed that "Israel would be better seen emerged as a Singa than as a Somalia." is right, and the s Israelis, in a spirit, ened self-interest, achieving a genuine tion, the better for and for all of us.

Old mysteries unveiled Italy's turmoil

By Stephen Addison
Renter

ROME — This month's stream of disclosures about guerrilla atrocities that have haunted Italy for years is a direct result of the country's institutional upheaval, political analysts believe.

The passing of a powerful ruling clique that blocked all attempts to seek the truth has opened the way for new light to shine on many incidents of the past, they say.

A growing number of gangland informers and a shake-up in the secret services are also playing a part, several say. But now the task for investigators is to judge how much of the new evidence is genuine. This week alone two very different kinds of claims on related themes have dominated newspaper front pages.

The first came from the mistress of an army general who said the armed forces were planning a coup next spring. To make sure her story captured the public imagination, she invoked the traditional ingredients of Italian conspiracy theory like Vatican involvement, Mafia links and the presence of right-wing guerrillas.

Donatella di Rosa's story is now widely dismissed as a farce but was taken seriously enough at first to merit an urgent military investigation and suspension of the general involved. The second came from an informer who said the "Ndrangheta" — the Calabrian version of the Mafia — was involved in the 1978 kidnapping of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

Saverio Morabito, a self-confessed crime boss who has been cooperating with police over the past year, has said the secret services had arranged for an "Ndrangheta hitman to be among the kidnappers. Early indications were that police are taking Mr. Morabito's information seriously.

"The trouble is that there is as much fiction flying around

as there is truth," said McCarthy, professor of Italian Studies at Johns University in Bologna. "Now that the flow of information coming out — but it is not enough to be wary of people with all motives are jumpin

Another analyst, not to be named, saw no end to the new evidence.

"There is so much has been covered up huge public appetite revelations that the to run for years," the general election of the Christian I of former Prime, Giulio Andreotti, an tating corruption so the past 20 months finished them off.

In the political void, have suddenly free selves free to pursue investigation that mally have been's while the number mants from the wog ness and crime had matically.

The resulting rati skeletons has been. On Thursday nev tion allowed police Germano Maccart, being the rumour man" involved in of Moro before his

On Tuesday m probing Italy's first War II guerrilla, b Milan's Piazza, opened a new line: after three men, one secret services agent ward with new evit

Hundreds of enu the civil and mili services are due to jobs in a shake-up, speculation that d agents may be temp revenge through cy

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July 1993

Dubrovnik revives, a monument to human spirit and human shame

By Mort Rosenblum
The Associated Press

DUBROVNIK, Croatia — You cannot walk the shell-pocked marble mainstreet of this medieval masterpiece without feeling uplifted by the human spirit and, at the same time, ashamed of the human race.

Dubrovnik was a mess when I first saw it in January 1992, smoking and smelling of garbage. People huddled in garages under the city walls, fearful that Serb guns would begin another nine-week siege. Families mourned victims, innocents who died because

they were the wrong sort of southern Slav. In a city as thrilling as Venice across the water, architectural treasures crumbled under shelling.

This month, it was Mick Jagger's new album that boomed in Dubrovnik, echoing from the Cafe Troubadour, where laughing, flirting couples filled every table.

Yes, I'm proud of this city," said Marko Breskovic, an aging bon vivant who owns the cafe. "Very, very proud. We are all back. Just look around."

I already had. Wood planks covered urban wounds, but they were decorated with kid's

paintings: butterflies, linked hearts, toy-like boats out for a spin with no malice in mind.

Then I asked Marko about Jovanka Popovica, an 82-year-old Serb great grandmother who had served me her hazelnut brandy and demanded to know why the world let crazy people besiege her priceless city.

She had jabbed a bony finger at my chest and ordered: "You tell George Bush to come here. I have something to tell him." She wanted to explain that ordinary Croats and Serbs were normal people, too.

If powerful nations had acted in time, she said, they would have stopped fanatic leaders from crippling whole nations.

Now it is too late. After I left in July 1992, in yet another round of shelling, a Serb 155mm Howitzer shell exploded in Mrs. Popovica's house atop the fabled walls of Dubrovnik, and she is dead.

Near the troubadour, Lucije Oresic's gallery features the vivid orange war paintings of Edo Murtic. She stayed to have a baby during the siege.

each night calming her 4-year-old son as shells fell.

"Friends begged me to come to Italy to safety, but I did not want to leave Dubrovnik," Lucije said. "The world was ignoring us, and we knew we had to come through together, on our own."

This summer, with the Serbs no longer threatening, Dubrovnikers rediscovered their city. The usual tourist horde went elsewhere. You could sip a peaceful coffee or find a spot at the beach.

Businesses suffered but reopened nonetheless. Maybe, some townspeople thought, the world no longer deserved Dubrovnik. Who needed all those outsiders who had left this treasure to its fate?

"We should be more selective about who we encourage to come here," Marko said, beaming at the notion of a city turning away visitors. "We need sensitive people who appreciate this place."

This is not a unanimous view. Last year, on my first trip, Vesna Gamulin was the public relations fireball for the mayor's office. Now the local Croatia information officer, she is still a Dubrovnik zealot.

"They should come, everyone, more than before," she said. The city needed to earn money to restore itself with no outside help.

Though proud of the spirit, she is angry that so little was being done to rebuild housing and basic services. The Grand Hotel Imperial, its top floors burned out, is still a refugee camp.

Andro Maticovic, chef and owner of an elegant new eatery called Sebastian, came home after 20 years in Italy to help in the rebirth of Dubrovnik.

"It's a theatre piece we're playing," he said. "The people who can barely make it, they're reality."

It is good theatre. Colourful posters on the damaged walls advertise Oscar Wilde's *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.

But despite the force of human spirit, the shameful episode of human neglect has ensured that old Dubrovnik will never be the same.

Ugly cement patches fill the 47 shell craters on the stratum, the marbled main drag. Even if new marble was cut, it would take five centuries of shuffling feet to match the original.

A dozen domes of priceless monuments were hit, and much of the old city is marred by ugly gashes. Beyond what is visible, explosions shook Dubrovnik to its core, pushing



foundation stones out of place. A tremor — or more shelling — could be catastrophic.

"We are doing just a few things," explains Vronimir Franic, another old friend, an architect for the committee for

renewal. "We get almost nothing from others." The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation sent roofing tiles. But the city cannot pay workmen to put them up.

In Delhi, avoid stepping on a resting politician

By Jawed Naqvi
Reuters

NEW DELHI — It's election time in India and the sprawling homes of Delhi's political elite are crammed with "ticket seekers" desperate for a party nomination in next month's state assembly polls.

At night, the vast and nearly mown lawns of the British-built bungalows allotted by the government to senior politicians turn into open air dormitories for the milling crowds of potential candidates.

Tired men — and a few women — from the four populous states that vote next month, spend sleepless nights there before their fate is decided. Some come equipped with blankets to guard against the nippy air.

"In the evenings, you have to walk carefully, lest you step on a future government minister," said Sharad Dadheech as he jostled through the mob in search of a ruling Congress Party nomination to a constituency in the arid state of Rajasthan.

Mr. Dadheech, a small businessman, has been living like this in Delhi for a fortnight. He came with dozens of other hopefuls after a local politician "promised" to fix them election tickets through "high connections."

There are dozens of us from all parts of Rajasthan who may have been duped," Mr. Dadheech said after he failed to find the politician he

was supposed to meet in Delhi.

Others are said to pay money to top party officials. Figures of up to two million rupees (\$65,000) are widely believed.

"We are naive. We stupidly paid money to these people," said Gajendra Kumawat, from the central state of Madhya Pradesh. "I have been unable to get anything more palpable than frequent promises of a ticket."

They are all in town because of new elections following Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's dismissal of the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governments in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh last December.

He alleged that they had failed to contain communal violence in the wake of the destruction of an Uttar Pradesh mosque by Hindu zealots.

The rich, poor and unemployed all want a ticket to run, but not necessarily because they want to improve the lives of their potential constituents.

"Winning or losing an election doesn't make a difference to many of these people," said BJP Vice President K. R. Malkani, whose party had to quell a near riot when disappointed ticket-seekers became abusive.

"Getting their names on the ballot paper itself gives them a lot of perks. A businessman will improve his business, a doctor will get more clients."

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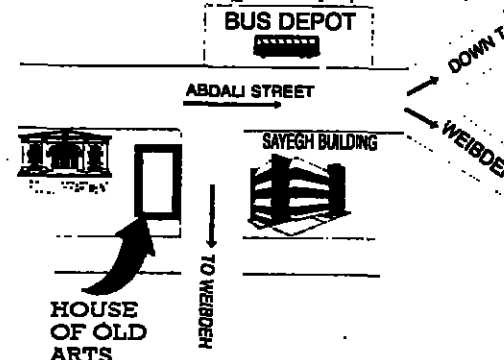
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Dennis Ross is due here tomorrow

(Continued from page 1.)

visit of Crown Prince Hassan to Washington last month.

During the visit, President Clinton hosted a meeting between the Crown Prince and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and announced the formation of a Jordanian-American-Israeli economic working group.

Details of the functions and role of the group have not been clearly defined yet, but diplomatic sources have described it as a window for Jordan to play a major role in rebuilding the West Bank and Gaza Strip and developing a Palestinian economy there supported by international funding.

After his meeting with the Crown Prince, Mr. Clinton also pledged that his administration would seek to help reduce Jordan's foreign debt burden and support the Kingdom's move to address its economic problems.

Dr. Tarawneh said that Jordan would "pursue all efforts in various channels and directions to address its economic concerns."

"The Jordanian economy has suffered very badly not only from the Arab-Israeli conflict but also from the Gulf crisis and the sanctions on Iraq," the ambassador noted.

Dr. Tarawneh said an American fact-finding mission which visited Jordan last month to assess the impact of the sanctions against Iraq on the Kingdom's economy had not finalized its report.

But he said he had reasons to believe that the report would be positive for Jordan.

Mr. Ross arrives in Cairo today and flies to Tunis and then to Amman tomorrow. He is expected to Israel on Wednesday for talks with Israeli leaders and later with Palestinian leaders and peace negotiators from the occupied territories.

No date has been reported for a visit to Syria and Lebanon.

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Ordinary Issue No. 18

Drawing of October 17, 1993

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Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120

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Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 700 each wins JD 70

61433 61442 61532 62432 71432

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Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each wins JD 40

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Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each wins JD 20

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Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 150 each wins JD 15

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18650 18641 18551 17651 08651

Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each wins JD 10

67435 67444 67534 68434 77434

67433 67424 67334 66434 57434

Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 80 each wins JD 8

25470 25489 25579 26479 35479

25478 25469 25379 24479 15479

Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 70 each wins JD 7

90635 90644 90734 91634 00634

90633 90624 90534 99634 80634

Ticket numbers 38863 76681 14812 49514 Win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers 40269 50943 33265 Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

4447 9252 7783 Win JD 50 each 7848 6746 2711 Win JD 20 each

1172 5448 4450 Win JD 10 each 2534 5057 Win JD 10 each

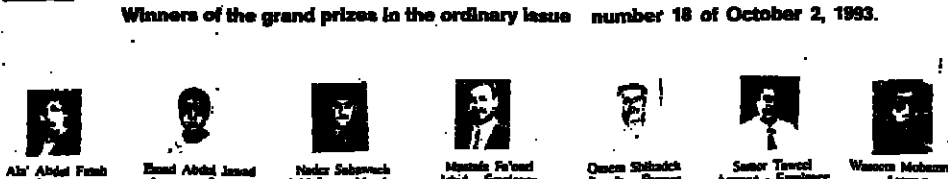
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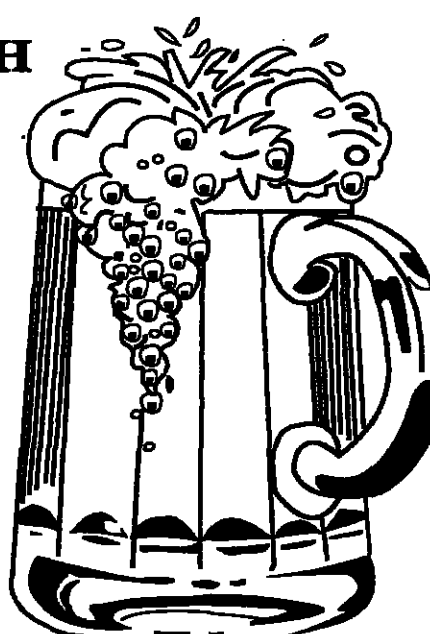
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AMMAN

Marriott HOTEL

AMMAN — His excellency the ambassador of Japan, Mr. Yuji Ikeda, kindly paid a visit to Medical Centre on the occasion of the opening of the sales of the Japanese Company OMRON, which is considered as the leading company in the world for producing high-tech medical electronic appliances for examining the blood pressure, body temperature, thermometers, body managers, nebulisers and pedometers for measuring distances for walkers and joggers.

His excellency ambassador Ikeda, was received by Mr. George M. Khouri, the managing director of Medical Centre.

The ambassador of Japan expressed his appreciation and admiration to the owners and operators of the centre for their efficient distribution of OMRON high-tech medical appliances.

The ambassador of Japan expressed his appreciation and admiration to the owners and operators of the centre for their efficient distribution of OMRON high-tech medical appliances.

The grace period is to allow registration of money or opening of accounts. The central bank governor said those found with undocumented money outside the banking system would be put on trial.

Expatriates and Businessmen

Pro-Yeltsin parties blossom ahead of December elections

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Political parties loyal to President Boris Yeltsin have blossomed in Russia this weekend, with two forming a coalition shortly after their founding and a third courting the regional vote.

Their target is the Dec. 12 parliamentary elections, which will be Russia's first democratic elections for a Federal Assembly since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917.

Two leading liberal groups, Democratic Russia and Russia's Choice, decided to form a coalition Saturday night at the founding congress of Russia's Choice. Interfax News Agency reported.

The pro-Yeltsin alliance, to be called Russia's Choice Coalition, will field a joint slate of candidates including First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, Economy Minister Yegor Gaidar, Yeltsin aide Gennady Burbulis and Mikhail Poltoranin, and Democratic Russia's leaders Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin, the news agency added.

On Sunday Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakrai formed another pro-Yeltsin group, the Russian Unity and

Concord Party (RUCP), in a bid to win support from Russia's regions in the Dec. 12 polls.

Both the coalition and the RUCP intend to launch their electoral campaigns Sunday night.

Speaking during the RUCP's founding congress in Novgorod, 200 kilometres south of Saint Petersburg, Mr. Shakrai said Russians were scared of political parties.

"Seventy years of communism have given birth to a mentality of doing without parties," Mr. Shakrai said.

He claimed RUCP had the "moral support" of Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin as well as Deputy Prime Ministers Oleg Soskovets and Alexander Shukhin.

Mr. Shakrai said his group had not joined the Russia's Choice Coalition because it was likely to break up after the elections.

"We want to be a stable organisation, free of scandals and fractures," he said.

Russian Unity and Concord's platform calls for a market economy and the restoration of economic relations across the former Soviet Union.

The party aims to create a strong federal government in Russia and hopes to attract the support of those regional leaders who want a less centralised state.

The party also supports state regulation. "Large industrial and financial corporations, having sufficient resources to pursue investment policies, are the basis of economic growth," the RUCP manifesto says.

The elections follow Mr. Yeltsin's decision last month to dissolve the Soviet-era parliament, which had repeatedly opposed his reforms.

Hardline members of the conservative-dominated assembly strongly resisted the dissolution. After a day of street battles, troops stormed the parliament building on Oct. 4 and ousted the remaining deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin has decreed that a referendum on a new Russian constitution will take place simultaneously with the elections.

Meanwhile one in five Muscovites wants the organisers of the bloody uprising in the Russian capital executed, an opinion poll published Sunday showed.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the Mneniye Opinion Poll Service asked 1,000 Russians how the ringleaders of the Oct. 3-4 revolt, in which scores died and many more were injured, should be punished, if found guilty.

A fifth favoured the death penalty, one in eight wanted them sentenced to life imprisonment and about the same number said the plotters should face more than 10 years in jail. But a quarter of those questioned gave no specific answer.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the dissolved parliament, and sacked Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi are among opposition figures in detention facing charges of organising mass disturbances.

This carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in jail. Russia still has the death penalty, carried out by shooting, for more serious offences such as treason.

Moscow has been swarming with troops, police and riot squads brandishing guns since government troops put down the revolt and President Yeltsin imposed emergency.



Rioters taunt police at the anti-British National Party demonstration in London Saturday (AFP photo)

60 hurt in London anti-racist riot

LONDON (R) — At least 60 people, including 19 policemen, were injured in the worst street clashes in Britain for three years after an anti-racist demonstration erupted in violence.

Police were pelted with lumps of concrete, bricks and stones when they stopped a column of about 20,000 demonstrators from marching on a bookshop in southeast London, which serves as the headquarters of the extreme right-wing British National Party (BNP).

As those leading the biggest anti-racist march in Britain since the 1970s tried to force a way through youths masked in

balacavas turned on the police, triggering a pitched battle.

Officers in riot gear, many mounted on horseback, repeatedly charged into their attackers. Witnesses reported seeing policemen felled by missiles and many protesters limping away, bleeding and in shock.

Ambulance services attended to 67 people after the violence in Welling, southeast London, and 41 were treated later in hospital. Nineteen policemen were injured, one seriously.

Police said 31 people were arrested for public order offences. Other arrests were cer-

tain to follow after film of the disturbances was studied, they said.

"Again in London we have seen a cowardly mob of extremists with no intention of demonstrating for a cause. But they turn up to cause disorder, violence and damage," London Police Chief Paul Condon told reporters.

Mr. Condon had said earlier that he expected trouble at the demonstration and had information that 5,000 anarchist extremists would try to storm the BNP bookshop.

The demonstration, which included groups from France, Germany and the Netherlands, eventually broke up after dark.

Besieged Kashmiri militants threaten to blow up shrine

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) — Kashmiri Muslim militants holed up inside a mosque here for the past two days threatened Sunday to blow up the shrine if the thousands of Indian troops encircling the complex launched an assault.

The threat to destroy Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine was conveyed to Wajahat Habibullah, a senior Kashmiri official who held a face-to-face meeting with the militants inside the complex, officials said.

As the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine on the outskirts of Srinagar entered a second day with no sign of a breakthrough, 11 Muslim separatists were killed by security forces in the border town of Bandipora in an unrelated gunbattle.

Neighbouring Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir's 1947 accession to India, condemned the siege meanwhile as an example of India's "callous disregard for the religious sentiments" of Kashmiri Muslims.

The rebels in the shrine defied calls for an unconditional surrender, demanding that the authorities permit them to hand over a holy relic preserved in the complex to Muslim clerics and the "general masses" officials said.

They also demanded the lifting of a curfew clamped in Srinagar so residents could make their way to the shrine to take possession of the relic, a single hair that Muslims believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad.

Mr. Habibullah met with the militants, estimates of whose number ranged from between

50 and 100, inside the white-marble complex on the banks of Nagin Lake.

The militants told him they had planted explosives which would blow up the complex if the army tried to storm the shrine, officials said, adding that the government was reviewing the situation.

Another meeting was expected later Sunday, the officials said, ruling out safe passage for the militants. The law would take its course, they said.

The estimated 10,000 army and paramilitary troops surrounding the shrine were joined Sunday by elite "Black Cat" commandos amid tension in the valley, where a general strike crippled normal life.

The head priest of Hazratbal, Moulvi Bashir Farooqui, called on Muslims to observe three days of "mourning" to show their anger at the military action.

Mr. Farooqui, the region's leading religious figure, urged Kashmiris not to open shops or businesses until the army lifted the siege.

A fire Saturday razed a prayer hall in the complex but the authorities stressed that the Prophet's hair was safe and ruled out a storming of the complex "as of now."

"We are doing everything we can to preserve and maintain the sanctity of the shrine," Kashmiri Administration spokesman Mehboob Ur Rehman told reporters.

"The holy relic is safe. But it is inside the same building

where the militants have taken refuge," Mr. Rehman said.

The army operation was ordered amid fears that the militants would try to remove the relic in a bid to spark protests in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Mass unrest gripped the state in 1964 when the relic was stolen but subsided when it was found and restored to the shrine.

A curfew was imposed for a second day in most of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and the urban hub of a four-year-old campaign for an end to Indian rule.

Troops patrolled the largely deserted city of 700,000 people in vehicles fitted with machine guns and foiled sporadic attempts at street protests. No violence was reported, however.

At Hazratbal, officers harangued the Muslim secessionists inside the shrine with appeals on loudspeakers to surrender. They were met with chants of "Kashmir is ours, go back, go back," witnesses said.

An army officer said troops had been ordered to wait and not to fire "a single shot." But residents of the area were told to stay indoors and about 3,000 people living in the immediate vicinity of the shrine were evacuated.

Inspector General of Police A.K. Puri said many of the rebels wanted to surrender but were being prevented by a "few hardcore ones."

Twenty-five militants were arrested as they tried to flee Saturday.

Bhutto nominee becomes assembly speaker

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's National Assembly elected Benazir Bhutto's nominee as speaker Sunday, virtually ensuring her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will take power despite a hung parliament.

Western diplomats said the election of the speaker was a litmus test of Ms. Bhutto's strength to form the federal government and was expected to win her more support in hung parliaments in the provinces in crucial votes this week.

"We had expected more votes," said her mother and PPP leader, Nurat Bhutto, after the house voted 106 to 90 for Yusuf Raza Gilani as National Assembly speaker.

"But anyway we have won and we are going to form the government in Punjab (province) and the centre."

Ms. Bhutto, 40, poised to recapture the prime ministership she lost three years ago, smiled with delight and joined other PPP deputies in thumping their desks when Mr. Gilani's victory was announced.

Her PPP emerged as the largest party in the hung National Assembly elected last week and has been locked in a tug of war with her arch-rival and ex-Premier Nawaz Sharif for control of the hung parliament in Islamabad and Punjab.

Ms. Bhutto, daughter of Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister, is expected to be chosen as house leader Tuesday, regaining the post she lost amid allegations of corruption three years ago.

The PPP and its main ally, with 92 seats in the 217-seat National Assembly, says it has support from several independent and smaller parties, raising their total to above the 109 they need for a majority.

Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) is behind with 73 National Assembly members.

The 44-year-old Sharif sat grim-faced as his chances of forming a government in Punjab — his former powerbase — faded with the loss of his candidature for speaker.

Diplomats said independent members in the most powerful province would now almost certainly follow the traditions of Pakistan's tumultuous politics by siding with Ms. Bhutto, seeing her as the certain future prime minister.

In the vote for the deputy speaker, Mr. Sharif had already lost support with the results 115 to 81 for Ms. Bhutto's candidate.

Both Ms. Bhutto, the Muslim world's first elected woman leader when she last came to power in 1988, and Mr. Sharif have engaged in an undignified scramble to win the support of independent deputies to the hung national and provincial assemblies, needed to form coalition governments.

The two arch-rivals have accused each other of buying deputies to win majorities in the hung parliaments.

Ms. Bhutto has said the stability of her federal government, elected in Pakistan's third elections in just five years, could not be assured unless the PPP also rules in Punjab.

Key Georgian town falls to rebels

TBILISI (R) — Rebels battling to oust Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze captured the strategic town of Samtredia Sunday, the Defence Ministry said.

Ministry spokesman Soso Margishvili told Reuters the town, a key rail and road junction between the Black Sea coast and the capital Tbilisi, had fallen after the last government troops had been forced to retreat.

The fall of Samtredia, which will drastically reduce the flow of supplies to Tbilisi and also to the former Soviet Republic of Armenia, is a major blow to Mr. Shevardnadze.

The ex-Soviet foreign minister suffered the humiliation last month of vowing to defend the Black Sea province of Abkhazia to the end and then having to flee for his life as he fled to Abkhazia rebels.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's forces earlier captured another town, Khori, to the north and now control a large swathe of territory in western Georgia, the stronghold and home region of the Soviet-era dissident who was ousted as president in January 1992.

Dozens of civilians and government troops were killed Sunday when rebels backed by tanks captured the centre of a strategic town in western Georgia in a surprise dawn raid, the Interior Ministry said.

Its press service told Reuters houses were ablaze and many people lay wounded in Samtredia, a vital rail and road junction between the last Black Sea port in government hands, Batumi, and the former Soviet republic's capital Tbilisi.

Government troops fled toward Kutaisi, Georgia's second city, but most found themselves chased or surrounded by the attacking forces of deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

It was not clear what had happened to them, and there were no details on rebel casualties.

The ministry accused the rebels and volunteers from the northern Caucasus of shooting

civilians in cold blood, but this could not be independently confirmed.

The ministry said reinforcements, including Mkhedrioni (Horsemen) irregulars, were assembling in Tbilisi to go to Samtredia.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia forces began their assault on Samtredia at dawn, crossing the River Tskhenistskali in tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Government troops fought the rebels on the outskirts but resistance appears to have crumbled quickly.

Pro-Gamsakhurdia forces have captured at least nine towns and districts in western Georgia, the stronghold and home region of the Soviet-era dissident who was ousted by opponents who accused him of ruling like a dictator.

Georgia, a small, mountainous republic on the southern rim of the former Soviet empire, has been convulsed by ethnic warfare and tens of thousands of refugees have fled Abkhazia this month.

Bosnian army fights rebel Muslims

SARAJEVO (R) — The Muslim-led Bosnian army faced renewed shelling from Serb forces in Sarajevo Sunday and tried to suppress a rebellion by fellow Muslims in the breakaway enclave of Bihać.

Sirens sounded a general alert Sunday morning in Sarajevo with sporadic artillery and sniper fire hitting the city a day after one of the heaviest shelling attacks in several weeks.

Saturday's artillery barrage, which killed eight people and wounded 55, could be a sign that Bosnian Serbs are preparing an assault on the city, Bosnian army First Corps Commander Bihir Karavelic said Sunday in the capital.

United Nations officials have reported Serb troop movements around the city but have said it remains unclear whether Serbs were planning an offensive.

In the northwest Bosnia enclave of Bihać, Bosnian government troops clashed with Muslim soldiers loyal to the enclave's leader, Fikret Abdić, during fighting in two villages Saturday, said Colonel Bill Aikman, a spokesman for the

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo.

Fighting erupted Saturday afternoon and continued for several hours in Johovica and Sokovi, with both sides exchanging machine-gun, small arms and mortar fire, Col. Aikman said.

Mr. Abdić said his followers declared the Bihać enclave autonomous last month, and have criticised Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for failing to reach a compromise peace agreement with Serbs and Croats.

Mr. Izetbegovic, a political foe of Mr. Abdić, ordered a military crackdown last month to suppress the rebellion. Bosnian government troops control most towns in the enclave, but Mr. Abdić's supporters still hold Velika Kladusa in the northern end of the pocket.

Muslims and Bosnian Serb officials met at Sarajevo Airport Sunday to discuss a possible exchange of prisoners of war as well as relief convoys for two besieged Muslim enclaves.

Sarajevo Radio said Momo Kraljevic, the Bosnian Serb assembly leader, promised

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic that Serbs would guarantee safe passage for relief convoys through its territory, including the Muslim enclaves of Maglaj and Tesanj.

Serbs have repeatedly blocked U.N. efforts to reach some 143,000 people trapped in the Maglaj region by encircling Serb and Croat troops. Air-drops have provided the only source of food for the starving residents who have not received an aid delivery by land since June 1.

Croats and Serbs shelled the Maglaj area again Saturday, killing one person and wounding three, Sarajevo Radio said Sunday.

Deputies at an assembly of the self-styled Serb Krajina Republic in Croatia debated Sunday who was responsible for a Croatian offensive that caught rebel Serb forces off-guard last month.

Interior Minister Milan Martić told the assembly in Plitvice that the Krajina Serb military leadership and President Goran Hadzic were to blame for the Croatian army's advances during the Sept. 9 assault south of Gospić.

American tourists rate Sydney the friendliest hosts

SYDNEY (AFP) — American travellers rate Sydney as the friendliest hosts in the world, according to a survey. A poll of 38,000 Americans, conducted by the U.S. Conde Nast Traveler magazine, asked them to rate their destinations based on the people, cultural enrichment, restaurant facilities, environment and ambience.

Of the respondents, 88.6 per cent voted Sydney as the friendliest, ahead of the citizens of Dublin (87.3 per cent) and Auckland (87.2 per cent). Sydney was also voted the third most popular destination, with 80.7 per cent of those polled responding positively to the home of the 2000 Olympics, behind San Francisco (82 per cent) and Vienna (80.9 per cent).

MANILA (R) — A "bridge of love" built by the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos for his wife Imelda is falling down, newspapers, newspapers said Sunday. The 2.2 kilometre concrete span in the central Philippines had been weakened by cracks and a hole but repairs could not be made for lack of funds, Philippine News and Features (PNF) said in a syndicated article published in Manila newspaper.

Mr. Marcos ordered the bridge built in 1972 and wrote a love poem at its inauguration dedicating it to his wife. He called it "a bridge of love." It connects Mrs. Marcos's home province of Leyte to nearby Samar Island. Because of the bridge's deterioration, bus passengers are asked to disembark and walk its entire length, PNF said. Vehicles are barred from crossing it at speeds over 28 kph (12 mph) and drivers cannot change gears, to minimise vibrations, it said.

French epic film to compete for Oscars

PARIS (R) — Germain, a multi-million dollar film about 19th century French coal miners struggling to improve their lot, has been chosen to represent France for nomination at the next Oscars, director Claude Berri said Saturday.

But Berri said his position in favour of an exemption for European cultural goods at GATT world trade talks might be a handicap barring the film's nomination as one of the five foreign films to vie for the best foreign film award. Berri told French radio: "I hope they will not vote against Germain, because I defend European culture... I hope the Americans enjoy it because it's a universal story, it's generous, and there's misery everywhere."

Germain, based on Emile Zola's 1885 novel, has been dubbed a box office challenge to Stephen Spielberg's Jurassic Park and is seen as a symbol of France's fight against a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) pact aiming to end subsidies and quotas of film and television.

It was selected by a French film committee and still has to go before the U.S. film industry which will select the five foreign films to compete for the Oscar foreign award.

3 dozen chefs stir the pot in fried rice for 5,000

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai chefs laid kaid Saturday to making the world's biggest serving of fried rice, Asia's fast-food equivalent of the West's hamburger. About three dozen chefs tossed 125 kilograms (275 lbs.) of chicken, 2,500 eggs, 12 kilograms (26.4 lbs.) of garlic and carrots full of other ingredients in the mixture in a 5-metre (16.5 foot) diameter steel wok and about an hour-and-half produced 5,000 portions of what is known in Thai as Khao Pad. The 1,600-kilogramme (3,520-lb.) wok had to be lifted into place by a crane, and was heated by 56 gas jets. The effort, record-making rather than breaking because no one had apparently thought to try it before, was to celebrate the 10th annual culinary arts competition of the Executive Chefs Association of Thailand. It coincided with the opening of an international hospitality industry fair at Bangkok's Queen Sirikit Convention Centre. Ingredients and cooking implements were contributed by local and foreign companies. The food was trucked to nearby Klong Toey Slum, where it was to be distributed to poor people.

Irish premier backs N. Ireland peace plan

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said Sunday that a new plan could bring peace to Northern Ireland and urged its divided people to learn from South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat's PLO.

Mr. Reynolds said a secret new initiative by Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and the moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

"could... supply an important part of the basis for peace."

"We have seen in many parts of the world enormous progress towards solving bitter conflicts and the achievement of understanding between people who had far stronger objective and emotional reasons for remaining for ever irreconcilable."

He cited South Africa, where Mandela's African National Congress (ANC)

negotiated the first non-racial elections with the minority white government, and the peace pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said that to help the initiative bring peace there might have to be a "balanced constitutional change" in the Irish Republic, whose constitution lays claim to British-ruled Northern Ireland. He gave no further details.

Ms. Thatcher, who led Britain into war against Argentina and — as part of a U.S.-led allied force — against Iraq, said: "The only way to make certain that we can beat a tyrant whenever he shows his hand is to keep your defences strong."

"The great thing about President (Ronald) Reagan, President (George) Bush and myself was, whatever we had to do, we never had to think we were the only ones who had."

Mrs. Thatcher vehemently attacked former Finance Minister Lawson for not telling her he was shadowing the German mark as a dress rehearsal for sterling's entry into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. "I was astounded. I have never forgotten it."

Thatcher: Give John Major time

LONDON (R) — Margaret Thatcher, asked if her successor John Major would ever be a great prime minister, said Sunday: "Give him a little bit more time."

Speaking on the eve of her memoirs' publication, she said her differences with Mr. Major had been resolved and argued that "Thatcherism is alive and well" after a swing to the right at the recent Conservative Party conference.

Mrs. Thatcher launched a stinging attack on her former Chancellor of the exchequer Nigel Lawson, warned against defence cuts and virtually announced right-winger Michael Portillo as the man that eventually she would most like to succeed Mr. Major.

In an interview with Sir David Frost on BBC Television, the "Iron lady" was asked if she had ever made any wrong decisions in her 11 years in power that ended with her being deposed in a palace coup by her own party in 1990.

"Goodness me, David, I think I was wrong on a number of things but I cannot think of anything immediately," she said.

In her memoirs, Mr. Thatcher said there was a momentary silence when she asked Mr. Major to support her in the 1990 leadership party ballot against Michael Heseltine, now trade and industry secretary.

"The hesitation was palpable," she notes acidly.

Asked by Frost about Mr. Major, there was an equally pregnant pause before Mrs. Thatcher replied: "I think he has carried out his duties. Each prime minister does it in his own style and in his own way... I was much a conviction politician."

Asked if Mr. Major would ever become a great prime minister, she said: "Give him a little bit more time and no leadership challenges."

After 18 disastrous months of policy U-turns and party mutinies, Mr. Major's popularity has sunk to an all-time low, but the recent party conference helped to rebuild the Conservatives' shattered confidence and restore some unity.

Mrs. Thatcher said: "Thatcherism is alive and well. I believe that was confirmed very much by the prime minister's speech at the party conference which was back to fundamental principles."

She issued a blunt warning against more defence cuts, now widely expected as Britain bids to trim its £50 billion (\$75 billion) budget deficit.

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Japan to protest if Russian nuclear dumping is confirmed

TOKYO (AFP) — Allegations of fresh Russian nuclear dumping in the Sea of Japan drew angry reactions here Sunday less than a week after the issue was raised during President Boris Yeltsin's first official visit to Japan.

Japanese officials said Tokyo would seek an "immediate halt" to the Russian action if the dumping allegations by environmental group Greenpeace were confirmed.

"If confirmed, we will seek an immediate halt to the dumping," Hiroshi Matsuoka, director of the Science and Technology Agency's Environmental Disaster Office, told Jiji Press.

"Under the London conven-

tion on dumping radioactive waste at sea, Russia and other signatories agreed to a moratorium... If the resumption of dumping is true, it is a violation of international rules," he said, adding that Tokyo was trying to confirm the reports through its embassy in Moscow.

Greenpeace said a Russian Navy convoy it had been shadowing since Saturday started dumping a shipload of liquid radioactive waste into the sea some 105 nautical miles south-east of Vladivostok, headquarters of the Russian Pacific Fleet, and 295 nautical miles west of Hokkaido Sunday.

Sports

Teams vie for Jordan Cup title

Al Ahli (Agencies) — The battle for the 1993 Jordan Cup title has narrowed down to teams after an eventful final week that saw time champions Al Ahli throw out of the competition by lowly former division club Sahab. Ramtha, 1-0 winners of Al Ahli will face Sahab in the first match of the semi-final round Monday. Al Ahli, 3-1 winners over Sahab, take on titleholders Faisali in the other semi-final Friday. The teams will play the leg of the semifinal on Nov. 4 and 5 after national team returns from matches played in the United Arab Emirates. This week's most surprising result was Sahab's win over Al Wihdat in a match decided by penalty kicks. Sahab won 6-5 after match ended in a 2-2 draw. In another match, Al Ahli's Badran Al Shaqran scored his team a 1-0 win over Al Wihdat after teammates Nari and Khalil Mohamed. The titleholders managed a win over Al Jazireh after in Suleiman received a free from Firas Khalil. Sahab's shot hit the post in the match with a lone goal for Al Faisali. Al Qadissieh's match with

Asia may get 3 slots in 1998 World Cup finals

DOHA (Agencies) — Asia, which contains 56 per cent of world's population but has only two slots in the World Cup soccer finals, may get an extra slot in the 1998 championship in France, soccer officials said Sunday. "There is strong logic and there is fair hope," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the world soccer body FIFA's Asian Football Confederation. The Asian continent is made up of 42 countries, but poor soccer performance and lack of initiative in promoting soccer have been stumbling blocks in its uneven representation in the World Cup. Japan, which has risen from the rubble of World War II to become the world's second largest economic power and the world's top donor of international aid, has come to Asia's rescue. "Japan is a very strong contender for the 2002 games," said FIFA Vice President Viacheslav Koloskov. "If Asia does well in the U.S. World Cup, there will be a very good reason to increase Asian representation in the future games," said Koloskov of Russia. Japan's GNP accounts for 13 per cent of the world total, its per capita national income ranks 5th among the main industrialized nations and its unemployment rate is one of the industrialized world's lowest. In Doha, capital of the tiny Arab nation of Qatar, which is hosting the World Cup Asian final qualification round, Japan has launched its campaign to get the 2002 games. "Japan loves goals," read prints on every gift that the Japanese are giving away. Stickers are pasted on taxis, hotel rooms and even in stadium.

Jordan Cup winners

- 1980: Al Faisali
- 1981: Al Faisali
- 1982: Al Wihdat
- 1983: Al Faisali
- 1984: Al Jazireh
- 1985: Al Wihdat
- 1986: Al Arabi
- 1987: Al Faisali
- 1988: Al Wihdat
- 1989: Al Faisali
- 1990: Al Ramtha
- 1991: Al Ramtha
- 1992: Al Faisali

Japanese journalists and officials promote their soccer in broken English to even Doha taxi drivers, who are mostly Indians, understanding English. "To make our dream come true we are broadcasting our going ahead with the bid without a thorough risk analysis. According to the documents released in state parliament here last Thursday, the cost of staging the turn of the century games would be \$1.1 billion Australian dollars (\$1.1 billion). Yet it was disclosed that the government's Games Finance Commission had not included in its budget the 807 million dollar (\$528 million) cost of an accelerated urban renewal programme for the Olympic Park site, or the 500 million dollar (\$327 million) cost of the athletes and media villages. Premier John Fahey said last week there had been no escalation in the projected cost of the 2000 Olympics and insisted the figures for staging the games and building the necessary infrastructure should remain separate.

Gosper urges calm over Sydney Olympics budget

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian International Olympic Committee Vice President Kevan Gosper says doubts over Sydney's ability to meet the cost of hosting the 2000 Olympics have concerned the IOC. Gosper, here for a meeting of the Oceania Olympic Committee, said he had been fielding calls from concerned IOC members, including President Juan Antonio Samaranch, seeking reassurance on the matter. Last week any lingering euphoria over Sydney's two-vote victory over Peking in the IOC vote in Monte Carlo on Sept. 23 was neutralised by reports that the treasury warned the New South Wales government that new taxes would be needed or public spending should be cut to pay for the Olympics. It had also cautioned against

Timman, Karpov draw game 13 of world chess match

Kasparov-Short match nears end

JAKARTA, Indonesia (R) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands drew with Anatoly Karpov of Russia after only four hours' play and 27 moves Sunday in the 13th game of the FIDE World Chess Championship. Karpov retains a two-point lead over Timman in the 24-game match. He leads 7.5 to 5.5 and needs 12.5 points to win the match and recapture the official world title he lost to his compatriot Garry Kasparov in 1985. Timman, rated 30 places below number two Karpov on current world rankings, arrived early for Sunday's game, respectful in a shiny green jacket and seemingly full of confidence. In contrast, Karpov did not come to the board until three minutes after the game had begun and appeared nervous and somewhat dishevelled. Controlling the white pieces and the first move, Timman employed the quiet Riet opening, which aims to command the central squares with pieces rather than pawns. Karpov seemed surprised by Timman's modest strategy and soon fell well behind on the clock. After deep thought he decided to counter in the classical fashion, establishing a strong pawn front in the centre. Indonesia's strongest player, grandmaster Utut Adianto, was impressed by Karpov's play. "I believe black is already slightly better," he said. But Timman's ambitious 18th move initiated a series of exchanges that gave him the upper hand. Four moves later, however, Timman missed a powerful queen move to the edge of the board, retreating instead and giving Karpov the time he needed to draw the game. After his 27th move Timman could see no way to win and offered Karpov a draw. Smiling, Karpov accepted immediately. Leaving the playing hall Timman was surrounded by Indonesian chess fans who had paid 30,000 rupiah (almost \$15) to watch the game. Karpov avoided the crowds by disappearing immediately after the game via a back exit. "A draw is okay," said an obviously disappointed Timman. "I was better but I over-looked something. Still, it was not a bad game. Nobody made any bad moves," he said. Karpov and Timman resumed their battle after a three-week delay caused by a lack of funds. The first 12 games were played in the Netherlands but Oman backed out of a deal to host the second half of the match and provide the purse of

two million Swiss francs (\$1.3 million). After a desperate worldwide search, the FIDE reached an agreement with the Indonesian Chess Federation to sponsor the decisive games, but with the prize fund cut in half. The match has suffered from competition from a rebel world title contest running concurrently in London. Karpov and Timman are playing for the official championship because Kasparov, the world number one, and his English challenger Nigel Short broke away from FIDE to organise a more lucrative contest in London. The next game in Jakarta will be played Monday with Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces. Kasparov, Short draw. Meanwhile, in Game 18 Saturday, Kasparov cleared one of the few remaining hurdles on the way to a successful title defence, holding off Short's advantage of the first move and earning a comfortable draw. Kasparov edged closer to the 12 points he needs to retain the crown and now leads 11-1/2 to 6-1/2, with six wins, one loss and 11 draws. To determine the 5/8-3/8 split of the \$1.7 million (\$2.5 million) purse provided by the Times Of London, the 24-game match will not conclude until Kasparov reaches 12-1/2 points. Short could split the purse if he manages a miraculous 12-12 draw. Both camps followed their usual match routine Sunday, with players consulting their teams of grandmaster analysts to prepare opening fitnesses for the coming game. Kasparov, 30, will have the advantage of the white pieces and first move in Game 19 Tuesday, and he has declared his desire to finish the contest with a win in that game. Short, 28, told reporters that he intended to prolong the match and try to narrow the gap. Even though Short admitted that he was now looking forward to a rematch after his near-certain defeat, he has gained considerable credibility with experts after his strong performance in the second half of the contest. In the last nine games Short has held his own, and even Kasparov has conceded that the Briton is the favourite to emerge from the coming qualification cycle as the next challenger. "Nigel is playing solidly and better and has cut out mistakes — maybe it is inevitable. The winner has some baggage on his shoulders," Kasparov said.

Toronto beats Philadelphia 5 in World Series opener

ONTARIO (R) — Devon Lester, scored three home runs and drove in two runs as defending champion Toronto Blue Jays kept coming to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-1 in the first game of World Series Saturday. Maybe my reputation is on ice, but I can do some things, the graceful, self-centred pitcher said. In Game 1, Lester scored twice and Roberto Alomar made a couple of key fielding plays and hit a two-run double in a three-run inning that put the Jays ahead for the American League champions. The Phillies, making their World Series appearance 10 years, broke out on top would never shake loose as Jays tied with times before going ahead to stay in the sixth inning's homer. It's a special thrill to drive a lead run, said Lester. I feel like we can come out at any time. We've been this all year. The team has a lot of heart, they played well," said Toronto manager Cito Gaston. Just like Philly, those guys coming at us. Gaston said of winning the first game of the best-of-seven series. "The first game is and in importance only to last." Lester got the win after hitting 2-2/3 innings of scoreless relief of starter Juan Guz-

Chinese man wins Peking Marathon for 1st time

PEKING (R) — Hu Gangjun became the first Chinese to win the men's event in the Peking Marathon since it began in 1981, finishing Sunday with a time of two hours, 10 minutes and 57 seconds. Hu overtook Daisuke Tokunaga of Japan with two km to go and hung on grimly to finish 12 seconds ahead of Tokunaga to the noisy delight of the sparse crowd, watched by dozens of police in the city's Workers Stadium. Hu finished second in last year's marathon, with a time of two hours 12 minutes and 45 seconds. "I feel particularly delighted to be the first Chinese to win this marathon and in the best time ever by a Chinese runner," he told reporters after the race.

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Lendl improves Australian Open chances with Tokyo indoor win

TOKYO (AFP) — Ivan Lendl won his first tournament in six months by beating Todd Martin here Sunday to retain the \$1 million Seiko Supper men's tennis title. The former world number one, suffering his worst-ever season in a decade after losing in the first round in nine tournaments this year, improved for a 6-4, 6-4 win. "It's important in the context of next year because I decided to play two more tournaments this year to try to get some points to be seeded in the Australian Open and start fresh next year in good position," Lendl said. Martin had beaten Lendl in the first round of the Australian Indoor Championships last week but on this occasion a series of accurate returns kept him from the net. Once Lendl took a lead in the fifth game of the first set he never looked back, hitting 11 aces and numerous service winners. A lucky net-cord ball which bounced over the head of Martin, who lost the following two points, gave Lendl a triple break opportunity in the fifth game. Martin managed to save them. But Lendl fired a forehand winner on his advantage point to take the set. Lendl was even more determined in the second set, conceding only three points on his serve and never facing a single break point in the remainder of the match. "I was having trouble holding my serve in the first set, there were three or four tight games. But all of a sudden, I started serving better. I was putting a lot of first serves in and getting a lot of free points on my serve," Lendl said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH ©1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

1.—As South, vulnerable, you bid: 1QJ743 ♠A954 ♣J ♠A2. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass. What do you bid now?

2.—Both vulnerable, as South you bid: 1QK05 ♠AKQ75 ♠AQ64. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass. What do you bid now?

3.—Neither vulnerable, as South you bid: 17654 ♠J3 ♠K6532 ♠72. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass. What do you bid now?

4.—Both vulnerable, as South you bid: 1KJ73 ♠893 ♠AKQ75 ♠K. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ? What action do you take?

5.—Neither vulnerable, as South you bid: 1A ♠AQ85 ♠AJ ♠AQJ754. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ ? What do you bid now?

6.—As South, vulnerable, you bid: 1AK4 ♠Votd ♠J109648 ♠K985. The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ ? What do you bid now?

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U.S. says military action not ruled out in Haiti

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States has not ruled out military intervention in Haiti to protect American lives and restore democracy there, President Bill Clinton's ambassador to the United Nations said Sunday.

Madeline Albright told NBC Television Washington was monitoring the situation there very closely and was standing by to evacuate some 1,000 Americans if necessary.

"The protection of American lives is foremost in our minds," she said. "We don't rule anything in or anything out, this is a very tense situation, but one in which we have to maintain calmness about our response."

Mr. Clinton on Friday ordered six U.S. warships to blockade Haiti and enforce a U.N.-imposed embargo due to take effect late on Monday. On Saturday the U.S. embassy flew in 30 additional Marine guards and set up a telephone network to alert American citizens about potential violence.

The Canadian embassy has already urged all 2,300 of its citizens to leave the country immediately.

Asked if the United States would use military force if the situation in Haiti continued to escalate or if the U.S. embassy was attacked, Ms. Albright said: "We have not ruled out anything. We are concerned about protecting American lives and restoring democracy."

A warship appeared off the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince Sunday, and two to three ships were already in place to enforce an imminent world petroleum and arms embargo, a U.S. embassy official said.

Spokesman Stanley Schragger said all six ships ordered by President Clinton should be patrolling international waters off Haiti by day's end, 24 hours before the embargo is scheduled to begin.

Residents in the Carrefour neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince reported seeing the gray warship, with a helicopter in the back, off the coast, and an Associated Press reporter on an aerial survey reported it halfway between the island of Gonave and the capital.

Mr. Schragger said he did not

know what ship it was.

The appearance came as Haitians jammed onto trucks Sunday in a downtown plaza to leave following the departure of nearly all U.N. personnel.

Fears have risen as those opposed to the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have announced that they will shut down the city on Monday. Previous shutdown calls have succeeded, with help from the military and allied civilian gangs.

On a street in the Delmas area of the capital, gunmen killed a young woman who had been carrying a suitcase, presumably intending to leave. There were no further details.

At the plaza, at least 150 people, including many children, were crammed onto the bed of one truck headed for the southern town of Les Cayes. Some straddled the side walls to fit. An empty pickup truck was mobbed by Haitians wanting to escape the volatile capital even before it came to a stop in the downtown plaza.

Heavy gunfire was heard throughout the night in some capital neighbourhoods. The unidentified gunmen shouted to residents, "you can come out now, Aristide won't be coming back."

The country's international airport was jammed with American and Canadian citizens who were urged to leave Haiti or take security precautions ahead of the anticipated international show-down.

Some were missionaries or relief workers who have worked in rural provinces of Haiti, where peasants live in extreme poverty.

The stringent U.N. trade sanctions scheduled to go into effect Monday are aimed at choking the military's hold on the impoverished country.

The estimated 7,000 military and police jobs in Haiti are considered some of the most desirable because of the regular pay and opportunities to demand bribes and kickbacks.

The U.N. sanctions also include freezing the foreign bank accounts of army chief General Raoul Cedras and other military leaders.

Gen. Cedras refused to relinquish power as scheduled on Friday, a crucial step in the U.N.-brokered plan to return

democratically-elected Aristide to power on Oct. 30.

Supporters of the military junta last week killed the justice minister in a pro-Aristide cabinet sworn in following the accord. They also blocked a small U.N. police force from landing.

Rumours were flying about Sunday the whereabouts of former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Mr. Duvalier, who has been living in exile in France since his ouster in 1986, has not been seen for several weeks, according to a Miami Herald report.

His mother, Simone Duvalier, was seen in Haiti in September at a family wedding and it was not clear if she had flown back to her home in France.

Mr. Duvalier and his father ruled the nation with an iron hand for 29 years, looting hundreds of millions of dollars from the treasury. Some members of their private security force, the dreaded Ton-Tons Macoute, are believed to be among the civilian gunmen now terrorising the city.

In Washington, Mr. Aristide said on Saturday he was confident the blockade would force out the military junta and possibly allow him to return this month as scheduled.

He repeated his opposition to sending foreign troops to Haiti and said the removal of Gen. Cedras and police chief Michel Francois was essential to restoring democracy.

"The only thing we have to continue doing is moving the way we are moving through this blockade, in order to have them out," Mr. Aristide told the Cable News Network. "Let's move fast to remove the killers from the country."

France is considering joining the naval blockade of Haiti, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said.

France was very concerned by the situation in the Caribbean country, and it will make every effort to ensure the accord on Mr. Aristide's return is implemented, he told reporters at the Francophone summit in Mauritius.

"We supported the Security Council resolution that reimposed the sanctions... as to the naval blockade, we are studying how we can take part," Mr. Juppe said.

"No decision has been taken."



SIEGE IN KASHMIR: Army soldiers take positions near Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine and threatened to blow up the Hazratbal shrine in the event of an army assault (AFP)

Signs seen among Gulf states of moves for better Arab ties

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent meeting of a U.N. agency based in Amman has brought out positive signs that the Gulf Arab countries could be seriously considering mending the strain in inter-Arab relations caused by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a senior official said Sunday.

Thoraya Obaid, deputy executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), described the outcome of a three-day meeting of a technical committee of the U.N. agency last week as "a correct beginning at the correct time."

Ms. Obaid, a Saudi national who has been with ESCWA since 1975, noted that the meeting was attended by all ESCWA member states, including the Gulf countries, which "showed a serious willingness to discuss common technical issues and again find common grounds for cooperation."

Some of the Gulf countries had been staying away from sending low-level delegations to ESCWA meetings in Amman in what was seen as a message showing their displeasure with Jordan's refusal to endorse a military option to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

Syria, which chaired the Oct. 11-13 meeting in Amman, "contributed positively to encouraging dialogue" among the delegates, she said.

Without mentioning any other country by name, Dr. Obaid said, "all countries came, more importantly, the Gulf states were present and they were very positive in their comments."

"There was give and take between (the Gulf countries) and other countries of the region" during the Amman

meeting and the Gulf countries "made real attempts to understand the scope of what was being discussed and to see where they can cooperate," the ESCWA official said.

Although the meeting was at government experts level, the deliberations of the gathering reflected the "political will" of their leadership to seek to "bridge gaps..." Dr. Obaid said, noting the outcome of the meeting was to be presented to a ministerial-level meeting of ESCWA in April.

"The Gulf crisis has left many wounds, among the peoples themselves," she told the Jordan Times. "ESCWA has tried, since the war ended, to find ways and means to bring the parties together to dialogue again over technical, not necessarily political, issues."

Dr. Obaid emphasised that ESCWA, a non-executive agency which offers technical advice and studies, responds to specific requests from the governments of its member states, and "if we do not receive requests from them, there is not much we can do about it."

Dr. Obaid said the Amman meeting was a "more developed manifestation of the attempt" to bring about improved relations among the Arab countries through finding "common needs... and common projects in which they can participate and cooperate."

"Our mandate is regional cooperation and as such our raison d'être is to bring these countries together," she pointed out.

"The important thing for us now is to follow (up things in the field and try to establish common projects..." Dr. Obaid said.

An ESCWA report on the economic situation of the member countries of the U.N. agency sparked a heated

debate when some of the Gulf countries saw parts of it as accusing them of adopting discriminatory policies against nationals of countries which they considered as having sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf crisis, triggered by its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

These included Jordanians, Palestinians, Sudanese and Yemenis. Hundreds of thousands of them were expelled from the Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf war and nationals from other Arab and Asian countries filled their posts.

The "offensive" paragraph in the ESCWA report was removed from the report in response to a demand from the representative of Kuwait, supported by the Saudi and Qatari delegates.

ESCWA officials said the debate had not affected the "positive" atmosphere of the meeting and delegates took the controversy in stride.

According to Dr. Obaid, ESCWA's regional advisers who visit the member states are one of the best conduits for interaction and cooperation among countries.

"In a sense, the regional advisers are promoting the coming together through dissemination of information, transfer of information from one country to another," she said. "It is a good beginning since (we) are trying to bring common vision and common needs among them."

For the moment, there are no common projects with the participation of countries whose relations were strained after the Gulf crisis, but they come together in technical discussions," she said.

In due course of time, she said, common projects could materialise.

She said water was an area where all countries in the region could cooperate and be beneficiaries.

France: Aziz visit apolitical

PORT LOUIS (Agencies) — France has allowed Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to enter a Paris hospital as a humanitarian gesture, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said here Sunday.

Mr. Aziz, 57, had arrived in France for medical treatment, the foreign ministry had said in Paris earlier. The ministry declined to reveal when Mr. Aziz landed, but added the visit was "limited."

Speaking in Mauritius where he is attending the summit of Francophone states, Mr. Juppe stressed that Mr. Aziz travels widely, often visiting the United States, and that his trip to Paris was authorised for medical reasons.

"Many countries have relations with Iraq," Mr. Juppe said. France, "like other states, recently agreed to Iraq's setting up an interests' section."

"Our aim remains to see that Iraq fulfils the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, nothing more."

"This matter is simply a humanitarian gesture," Mr. Juppe said, adding that all the relevant government departments have approved Mr. Aziz's visa.

Presidential spokesman Jean Mustelli said here: "This is not another Habash incident."

He was referring to the January 1992 visit to a Paris clinic by George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, accused by the West of responsibility for a number of attacks.

The Habash trip provoked an outcry and forced the resignation of presidential aide Georgina Dufoix and the transfer of two foreign ministry officials.

Mr. Aziz is a member of the Revolutionary Command Council, the highest decision-making body under Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He came to world attention while serving as foreign minister from 1983 to 1991, during which he defended Iraq's positions in the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars.

An Iraqi opposition group said in a statement that Mr. Aziz, whose country has had no diplomatic ties with France since the Gulf war, was planning high-level meetings to grant oil concessions to the French in Iraq.

French spokesman had no comment on the claim made in a statement by a group calling itself the "national committee to save Iraq."

The Moroccan ambassador, whose country represents Iraqi interests in France, was not available for comment.

The Iraqi opposition group said last week Mr. Aziz began planning the French stay two months ago under the guise of medical treatment to discuss "giving France and French companies important privileges in Iraq and control over oil and the Iraqi economy."

COLUMN

Barbara Bush does not miss Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former first lady Barbara Bush, who spent 25 years in Washington, says there's not much she misses about the nation's capital. "My children, my friends," she said Saturday night. She paused. "Are you waiting for more?" Mrs. Bush spoke with a handful of reporters prior to speaking before about 150 people at the 1993 Maxwell House "Real Heroes" Awards dinner, an event honouring 50 Americans for their volunteerism. During her speech, Mrs. Bush said she and her husband have rediscovered cooking, driving and privacy since leaving the White House. "Our lives have changed dramatically," she said. "On January 20th we woke up and we had a household staff of 93. The very next morning, we woke up and it was George, me and two dogs — and that's not all that bad." She said the former president has been traveling, playing golf, writing a book and answering letters, which continue to roll in at a rate of 500 a day. "And let me tell you, George is the best little dishwasher in Texas," she said.

Spanish artist decorates hotel room

SITGES, Spain (R) — A hotly accused Spanish artist painting the walls, sheets and towels of his hotel room in a bid to recapture the artistic freedom of modernism. Antonio Xaus painted clouds on the ceiling, a nude couple on the sheets and a night-time street scene on the walls of the room during his three-day stay at the Estela-Barcelona Hotel, at Sitges in northern Spain, hotel authorities said. The paintings were discovered when Xaus and his wife left, a pair of painted underpants were also left behind. The hotel said Xaus left a note in the room saying the paintings were "an act of artistic provocation in accordance with the purest modernist style." The hotel is claiming damages against Xaus although a spokesman admitted: "You can't exactly call it damages."

Peruvian Vargas Llosa wins Spain's richest book prize

BARCELONA (AP) — One of the leading authors of the Latin American literary boom has won Spain's richest book prize. Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa received the 50-million-peseta (\$380,000) Planeta Prize for his unpublished novel, *Lituma En Los Andes* (Lituma in the Andes), which deals with the spiraling violence in his native country following the emergence of the Shining Path guerrilla movement. The Planeta Prize, awarded by the Planeta Publishing Group, virtually guarantees that the winning novel will be a bestseller in Spain and much of the Spanish-speaking world. Mr. Vargas Llosa, 57, who ran unsuccessfully against Alberto Fujimori for the Peruvian presidency in 1990, said at the awards banquet he had gathered much of the inspiration for the novel during his campaigning throughout the country. He said he had tried to deal with the phenomenon of the return to barbarism in his native land through use of the legend of the Dionysus, the ancient Greek god of fertility and wine. Mr. Vargas Llosa, together with Colombian Gabriel Garcia Marquez, are among the most well-known authors of the Latin American literary boom that erupted in the late 1960s and 1970s, thanks in great part to the efforts of Barcelona-based literary agent Carmen Balcells.

Stage fright blanks out shell fright for some in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AP) — Sitting in a courtyard, Vedrana Bozinovic drew nervously on a cigarette as a sniper round popped in the distance. "I'm scared to death," she said. But Ms. Bozinovic, 17, was fighting stage fright, not fear of snipers. She was awaiting her turn to try out for a coveted spot in Sarajevo's Academy of Performing Arts. In a bid to preserve the Bosnian capital's special culture, the academy has held three auditions — two for actors, one for directors — during the 18-month-old Serb siege of the city.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli anti-missile missile fails test

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The sixth test firing of Israel's Hetz anti-missile missile ended in failure when its warhead did not explode, military officials said Sunday. The Hetz, Hebrew for Arrow, came within 10 metres of an incoming missile when it was test-fired on Thursday off the Mediterranean coast, but the warhead's firing system failed, the officials said. The Hetz, built by Israel Aircraft Industries and 80 per cent funded by the United States as part of the Strategic Defence Initiative or Star Wars programme, was last tested on Feb. 28, when it missed its target by several metres. The first phase of the project cost \$156 million and involved three tests. In April 1992 Israel and the United States signed an agreement on the second phase, costing \$320 million and due for completion in April 1996.

BBC scraps ad depicting Arafat

LONDON (AP) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said Saturday it has apologised to golfing pro-Nick Faldo for placing newspaper advertisements that depicted Yasser Arafat apparently whispering to him. BBC chiefs have scrapped the ad, which appeared in British newspapers this week to promote the state-supported broadcaster's new 24-hour radio station for news and sports, which goes on air next year. The caption below the spited photo-image read, "From April 1994 they'll be on the same wavelength," emphasising that news and sports coverage will be combined in the service. Some readers thought the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief appeared to be kissing Mr. Faldo, not confiding in him. A BBC spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ad was put together hastily and Mr. Faldo was picked because he was "one of the finest examples of British sport." It was published without his approval and Mr. Faldo's agents swiftly complained.

German troops may leave Somalia in April

BONN (R) — German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe says Sunday Germany's contingent in the United Nations mission in Somalia may pull out of the country in April 1994. "April next year is a likely date, but this has to be agreed with the United States and with our European partners," Mr. Ruehe said in a television interview. Mr. Ruehe added that the German support unit of 1,200 soldiers would be reduced to some 400 to 500 men in November.

Rafsanjani denies backing Turkish rebels

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a meeting here with the Turkish interior minister on Sunday, denied allegations that Iran backed Kurdish rebel attacks against Ankara. In talks with Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, Mr. Rafsanjani also said: "It is expected that Turkish officials would explicitly deny these baseless charges and make people aware of the enemies' conspiracies," according to Tehran Radio. The Turkish media as well as several officials in Turkey have repeatedly accused Iran of providing logistical support to the fighters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a fierce battle against the government in Ankara. Tehran has consistently denied the charges. "We stress cooperation with Turkey to preserve tranquility, and Iran will never let chaos and insecurity prevail at our common border," the president said. Mr. Rafsanjani also called for bilateral and regional cooperation with Turkey, and for exchanges in economic and technical fields as well as in the area of transportation.

Clinton blasts Europe on Bosnia

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher have blasted Europe's policy on the former Yugoslavia and admitted mistakes on Somalia in soul-searching interviews on U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Christopher, in separate interviews with Washington Post published on Sunday, also fired back at the Bush administration's foreign policy team, which appeared last week to have ended an informal ceasefire in effect since the November 1992 election.

Mr. Clinton faulted Britain and France in particular for failing to go along with his initial push to lift a United Nations embargo on arms shipments to Bosnia and use airstrikes against the Serbs to curb further aggression.

He said the embargo's main effect was to put the Muslim-led Bosnian government at a disadvantage against its better-armed Serbian and, to a lesser extent, Croat foes.

"I mean, I had the feeling that the British and French felt it was far more important to avoid lifting the arms embargo than to save the country,"

Mr. Christopher also rebuked Europe on Bosnia, accusing it of trying to "blame America" to cover up for "not having resolved the problem that Europe failed to resolve itself."

"Western Europe is no longer the dominant area of the world," Mr. Christopher said, adding: "There is a lot of criticism coming from Western Europe but I don't see or hear that coming from Asia."

On Somalia, Mr. Clinton acknowledged a mistake in letting the military effort take precedence over diplomacy. He said he had not focused on the problem until after forces of Somali clan leader Mohamed Farah Aided were accused of killing 24 Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers last June 5.

Qadhafi blasts U.N., Iranian team in Iraq its secretary-general to discuss relations

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Sunday the Arab World was threatened by new colonialists in the United Nations and accused its secretary-general of being a "postman" for the West.

Colonel Qadhafi's speech came on the eve of a U.N. Security Council vote to expand sanctions against his country for its refusal to send two Libyans for trial in Britain or the United States on charges of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103.

"The Arab World is facing a real enemy in the United Nations," Col. Qadhafi told a youth meeting in the Mediterranean city of Misratah.

Col. Qadhafi, in remarks carried by Libya's JANA news agency and monitored in Cairo, warned of the return of "colonising nations," an apparent reference to Britain and France which are joining the United States in pushing for stricter sanctions.

U.N. sanctions in place since April 1992 ban international flights and arms sales and have reduced diplomatic representation. The broader sanctions to be considered by the Security Council would ban sales of some vital oil production equipment.

Two Libyan intelligence agents are accused of killing 270 people with a bomb on Pan

Am flight 103, which crashed over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. Libya insists on having the men tried at home or in a country other than the United States or Britain.

In his speech, Col. Qadhafi reserved his harshest words for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, urging the Egyptian diplomat to resign.

"The U.N. secretary-general can only act as a postman, taking messages back and forth without suggesting any solutions," he said. "His transformation to postman is an insult to the Arabs because his Arab identity is being ignored."

Libya appeared to be trying to break its deadlock with the West by stating last week that it would encourage the men to stand trial in Scotland.

But after a two-day meeting between the defendants and a team of international lawyers last week, Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff said he did not expect the men to surrender for trial in anywhere in Britain or the United States.

"The only thing for him to do to protect the honour of Egypt, since he is Egyptian, and to protect Arab honour because he is an Arab, is to resign after they put him in this terrible position," Col. Qadhafi said of Dr. Ghali.

Col. Qadhafi illustrated his postman metaphor with the Lockerbie crisis.

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian delegation headed by a Foreign Ministry official arrived in Baghdad Sunday, the first high-level exchange between the two countries in three years.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the team, headed by Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, will start official talks Monday.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the foreign ministry's director-general, Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal, will head the Iraqi team.

Iran and Iraq fought a 1980-88 war. Although the two countries reopened embassies in each others' capitals in 1990, their relations have been clouded by mutual mistrust.

Mr. Zarif told reporters before leaving Tehran that his main mission in Iraq would be to try and settle the issue of remaining prisoners of war and outstanding articles of the U.N.-sponsored cease-fire agreement that halted the war.

"A settlement of these issues is important if good-neighbourliness and stability are to be created in the region," Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Zarif as saying.

Tehran and Baghdad have exchanged more than 37,000 prisoners since they stopped fighting, but Iran still holds some 20,000 Iraqis and Iraq holds 5,000 Iranians, according to the Red Cross.